THE INDEPENDENT

ON SATURDAY

Saturday 18 October 1997

(IR65p) 70p No 3,431

TOP STORIES

nozt

Keane

The answer to youth crime?

Forcing young offenders to meet their victims makes them think again about committing crime, according to new research. The numbers that re-offend, after seeing their victims face-to-face fall to an eighth of what would normally be expected. Social services leaders, probation officers and penal reformers yesterday called for mediation schemes to be implemented widely to help combat youth crime. At present a quarter of all crime is committed by under-I/s and half by under-21s. Full story below

Branson takes on the banks

Richard Branson, the billionaire head of Virgin, yesterday launched his most audacious attack yet on high street banks, announcing an innovative one-stop account he claimed could save people tens of thousands of pounds during their lifetimes. Virgin One, a joint venture with the Royal Bank of Scotland, will combine mortgages, current accounts and savings into one package. Page 3, Outlook page 27

OTHER NEWS

New curbs on legal aid

In a major overhaul of the justice system, the Government revealed yesterday that legal aid would be withdrawn from most civil actions and "no win, no fee" deals would be extended for lawyers in England and Wales. The Law Society saidwould mean a curtailment of many peoples' access to the courts.

Page 5

Baby 'injured before'

The trial of the British nanny, Louise Woodward, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was told yesterday that the baby Matthew Eappen suffered brain injury more than three weeks before she is alleged to have battered and shaken him. The claim was made by a medical expert called by the defence.

Page 5

Rat tsar wanted

A "rat tsar" may be needed to crack down on a population explosion of rodents, a conference in London heard yesterday. The water companies, whose sewage pipes have become homes for the rats, admit the current system of pest control is inadequate.

Page 7

This gay life

Plans for a new series of the cult television series This Life have ground to a halt. One of the main problems has been caused by an attempt to inject more gay sex into the script.

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Cook in royal row

The Queen yesterday took the unusual step of defending Robin Cook against reports of a rift between Buckingham Palace and the Foreign Office over her trip to India.

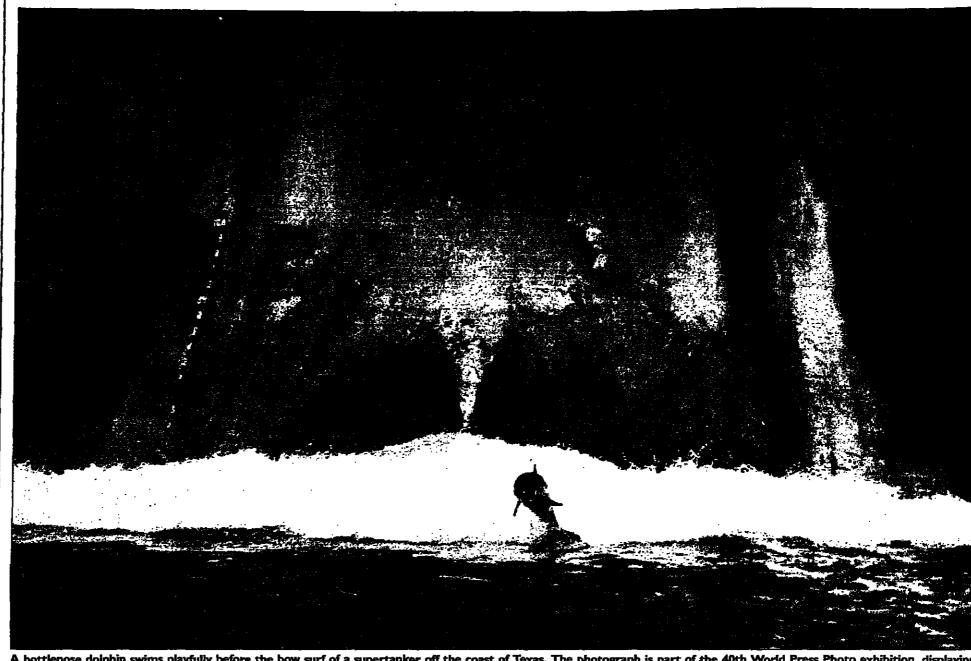
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INSIDE TODAY



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TIME OFF/
Sport, travel & leisure
YOUR
MONEY/
Personal finance,
property & cars
THE EYE/
Your full weekly
television guide

Frolicking along on the crest of a wave...



A bottlenose dolphin swims playfully before the bow surf of a supertanker off the coast of Texas. The photograph is part of the 40th World Press Photo exhibition, displaying pictures from the world's main events of 1996, which opens next Friday at the Royal Festival Hail, London, and runs until 16 November Photograph: Michel and Christine Denis-Huot

The ultimate deterrent: facing up to the victims

After knocking back a bottle of Martini, Wayne and Robin (not their real names) went out on a spree, breaking into two cars.

went out on a spree, breaking into two cars.
One of the cars belonged to a Mr Judge
and the items Robin and Wayne stole had
been presents from his wife, just months
before she died.

In an experiment which has proved to be remarkably successful, the teenagers were brought face-to-face with Mr Judge. Trembling with emotion he yelled at them: "On our final anniversary she gave me some presents for my car. I treasured the travel rug, sunglasses, camera and book that she gave me. And the morning after your stupid, ignorant behaviour I found those presents thrown into the hedge like rubbish." The pair who had already been cautioned by the police ended the meeting with their victim by apologising and paying £100 compensation.

Wayne and Robin were just two of nearly 400 young offenders who have taken part in a pilot scheme where victims and offenders are brought together. The scheme has produced startling figures which suggest that young people who take part are much less likely to commit another crime.

In fact, the Restorative Justice scheme run by Thames Valley Police in Bucking-hamshire claims that recidivism was reduced to an eighth of its previous level—down from around 30 per cent to 4 per cent.

Social service leaders, probation officers and penal reformers called for such schemes to be more widely implemented last night. "We would like to see the restorative justice approach extended throughout the country and the criminal justice process," said Paul Cavadino, principal officer of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

The results reflect findings around the world where similar schemes have also had remarkable success. Fewer young people committing serial crimes are being locked up and victims report feeling their views have been taken into account as well. It could mean an end to celebrated cases such as the serial offender known as Ratboy – Anthony Kennedy, 17, from Newcastle, who was jailed earlier this year after a six-year criminal career.

A 1996 study in Canada found an 80 per cent reduction in further criminal behaviour by those attending a similar scheme. In New Zealand, after a law was brought in in 1989 which made young offenders and their families meet their victims, court cases involving young people dropped from between 10 to 13,000 cases a year to 2,587 the year after. Entry to correctional institutions also dropped by 50 per cent.

tutions also dropped by 50 per cent.

The largest study of more than 3,000

BY GLENDA Cooper

young offenders in four major American cities in 1994 found that reoffending dropped from 27 to 18 per cent and "considerably fewer and less serious crimes were committed".

Thames Valley Police has conducted 367 conferences involving young offenders aged between 10 and 17 since the scheme was set up two years ago. Only youngsters facing cautions for offences can take part



'Ratboy': Anthony Kennedy, 17, was imprisoned earlier this year

and they are accompanied by their parents.
Victims have included shop managers,
motorists and a woman who was assaulted in the street. They must agree to take
part in the conferences which last up to 40
minutes. They can take a friend for moral

The Chief Constable of Thames Valley, Charles Pollard, said 60 officers have been trained to run the scheme. "I see this as a permanent thing, without a doubt, I personally would like to see it replicated. We expect the results to show an even greater reduction in reoffending in about two to three years."

Constable Bob Gregory who is helping to co-ordinate the face-to-face sessions said: "I was Mr Sceptical. I thought it would never work in a month of Sundays. I was won over by observing them. It is not a soft option. We think going to court is hard, but court is only measuring blame and apportioning punishment. This is punishing. Young offenders have to listen to the effect they have had on the victim and that's hard, that's very, very difficult."

Professor Tim Newburn, head of crime justice and youth studies at the Policy Studies Institute, said: "This general approach has a lot of potential and it's certainly important for agencies to explore as it remains relatively untested."

He called for education and health ser-

vices to also get involved in the treatment of young offenders: "Their offending is not usually the only problem they have".

A handful of schemes are run across the country by a mixture of social services, voluntary agencies teams and the police. Andy James, who runs a Barnado's project in Neath and Port Talbot area, said 80 per cent of the 100 children they saw a year did not re offend. "And the victim also gets a chance to confront their offender and come to terms with what has happened to them."

The Association of Directors of Social Services also called for more work to be done on the scheme. Harry Fletcher, assistant secretary general of the National Association of Probation Officers said: "There is now clear evidence that direct mediation is helpful - it is therapeutic for the victim and has a positive impact on reoffending."

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TELEVISION The Eye
CROSSWORD
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COLUMN ONE

Puffins lead the way to road safety

The trouble with roads, for most motorists, is that pedestrians want to cross them. Yesterday saw the latest addition to the menagerie of road safety schemes inhabiting the nation's roadsides: the Puffin.

Replacing the Pelican and complementing the Zebra, the Puffin crossing or (pedestrian user-friendly intelligent) walkway will see legislation laid before parliament on Monday to allow the "clever" system to be laid across the nation's highways.

The Government earlier this week made it clear that "more intelligent" systems would help it set an ambitious target of reducing road deaths by 2010. It is already well on the way of reducing fatalities by a third by the turn of the decade. Ministers point out that the Netherlands is trialing systems that automatically stop cars, with electronic brakes, from exceeding urban speed limits, and that Sweden has a "zero death" target for its roads.

The hi-tech Puffins, which have been tried out at more than 60 sites across the country, use detectors to monitor the progress of pedestrians across the road. If more time is required for the pedestrian to cross, the red traffic light signal is extended. Puffins will also solve a common complaint made about Pelican crossings. Above-ground sensors detect if the pedestrian moves away or crosses before being signalled and cancel the

red signal request so that motorists are not stopped unneces-

Puffin crossings also do not have flashing lights but show either a steady red or steady green.

It may seem a small step, but close look at the road fatality figures suggest otherwise. More than 4,200 people were either killed or injured on road crossings and a further 4,000 were hit within 50 metres of a pedestrian walkway last year.

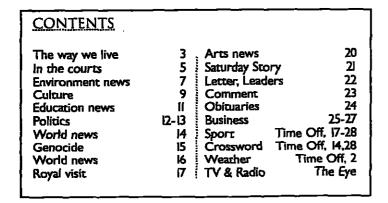
The origins of such life-saving measures have their roots in Roman times. The earliest example of a pedestrian crossing was the use of stone slabs in Pompeii to save citizens from rushing chariots and reckless carts.

The first pedestrian crossings in Britain were found in London in the late-Twenties. Consisting of little more than a series of red, yellow or white diagonal strips, they were not considered a success. The real breakthrough came with the now familiar "Belisha" beacon (above) a decade later, whose flashing amber globes were named after the Labour minis-

ter of transport Mr Leslie Hore-Belisha. The success of the Belisha beacon almost proved to be its downfall. By the end of the Forties, the nation's motorists encountered the crossings so regularly they no longer stopped to let pedestrians pass. The government acted and cut the number of crossings from 30,000 to 10,000.

Other schemes have not been so successful. In 1962, the Panda crossing made its appearance on Britain's streets. Its distinctive black and white post was easily recognisable but the crossings complex signalling meant motorists simply ignored its instructions. Twelve months later the Panda was extinct. Today's most popular pedestrian walkway is the Pelican crossing. Introduced in the early 1970s, the Department of Transport said that "they had shown a substantial reduction in casualties".

Baroness Hayman, the roads minister, said: "The new generation Puffin crossings are an excellent example of how new technology can be used to deliver significant benefits to both pedestrians and motorists alike."



<u>ZITS</u>

PEOPLE



Leslie's man is behaving badly - allegedly

The domestic lives of celebrities have been playing havoc with the plans of advertisers and television schedulers this week.

Leslie Ash, star of Men Behaving Badly, and her husband, former footballer Lee Chapman, will present a new series together (above) from tomorrow, despite the fact that Mr Chapman was charged with common assault against Ms Ash on Thursday.

Unlike the Shredded Wheat brand, which dropped Glen Hoddle and his wife from an advertising campaign this week when the couple announced they were separating, London Weekend Television has confirmed that it will air a 10-part restaurant review programme which is hosted by the couple.

The programme, Dinner Dates, features Ash and Chapman interviewing chefs and customers at restaurants while other celebrities review the food. The shows were recorded over the past 10 months and seven. and the first celebrity to appear with them will be society columnist Tara Palmer-Tomkinson.

The programme's 10-week run will mean it will show the couple in harmony on air while Mr Chapman, 37, is appearing at South Western magistrates' court, in London, on 13 November, on charges of common assault and criminal damage.

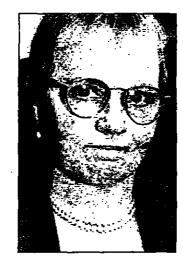
Mr Chapman was arrested at the Wandsworth home of Ms Ash's Men Behaving Badly co-star. Caroline Quentin, on Thursday night.

Ms Ash is reported to have fled to Ms Quentin's home after a row with the former Leeds United player. Mr Chapman is then alleged to have tried to kick Ms Quentin's door down before police arrived and arrested him. Mr Chapman was held in the cells at a local police station until he was bailed.

Mr Chapman, 37, retired from football last year and now runs a bar. He has been married to Ms Ash since 1986 and the couple have two sons, aged four

Ms Ash has no need of the publicity. A new series of Men Behaving Badly begins next month and Andy Burgess, a spokesman for LWT, said: "LWT the BBC has already centred its pre-publicity effort is very proud of the programme, so are Leslie and around Leslie Ash's character and her relationship Lee, so the show will continue to go out as with Neil Morrisey's badly behaved character. Tony. --- Paul McCann

Court awards Kegworth widow £11,000



Blaneby

The widow of one of the victims High Court building, photograof the 1989 Kegworth air disaster was yesterday awarded £11,182 damages in the High Court in

Anne Glackin, 59, of Newtownabbey, Co Antrim, who was separated from her husband crash, was awarded the sum

Mrs Glackin, whose claim had been for a six-figure sum, looked father died. Her five other chilshocked as Judge Anthony dren were grown-up at the time. Thompson QC gave his decision She and her husband had been

phers saw Mrs Glackin (left) collapse. She was driven off in an ambulance. Earlier, her son Jim. 32, said

outside court: "Our family's lives were destroyed by the crash. Today we have been very disap-David, 51, when he died from se-pointed that the court has not seen vere chest injuries suffered in the the damage that has been done.

Mrs Glackin had claimed damagainst British Midland Airways ages on behalf of herself and for and the engine manufacturers. her daughter Sophia, now 26. who was still at school when her yesterday. Shortly after leaving the planning to get back together.

Tofu and beans pay £1,000 dividend for schoolgirl

For one vegetarian public schoolgirl, a loyalty to tofu—up by an Edwardian headmaster at the school in 1909. and beans over burgers and bacon has led to a £1,000

saving on school fees, thanks to a forgotten vege-but Lisa, a pupil at the school for two years and a Lisa Stephenson, 15, a pupil at Wycliffe College.

tarian scholarship. Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, saved her parents a could get a special scholarship I spoke to my tutor

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

智能

The scholarship had gone unclaimed since 1993. committed vegetarian, was a clear candidate. She said yesterday: "When I heard vegetarians

year's fees after uncarthing details of an award set and he had a word with the headmaster. "I have been vegetarian all my life. So have all my family. I don't even have to take any exams to

get the award - just carry on not eating meat."

The school - motto "Bold and Loyal" - has blazed a vegetarian trail since the days of headmaster George Sibly, who introduced two annual meat-free scholarships early this century. As a crusading vegetarian. Sibly was a rare beast at the time and a fierce debate raged over whether lack of meat would harm growing children. But he stuck to his guns and in-1909 founded Springfield House - an experimental boarding house within the college where bows lived on salads, nuts, lentils and honey, and where steak was firmly off the menu.

When Sibly's son William took over as headmaster of Wycliffe he took a group of pupils to a vegetarian conference in Holland in 1946.

Among the pupils was Lisa's grandfather Roger Bacon - who met and fell in love with vegetarian Dutch woman Marja Klerkx. She later became his wife and the grandmother of Lisa.

UPDATE

HEALTH

Fraudbuster prescribed for NHS

The Government is to appoint an NHS fraudbuster to crack down on peo-ple who steal money destined for the treatment of patients, it announced

The move is part of a campaign against prescription, optical and dental fraud, and follows a package of tough measures announced in the summer to counter the £100m a year prescription fraud racket. Details of the fraudbuster will be announced by the end of November.

The overwhelming majority of health professionals are hard working and honest but a few rotten apples are robbing the system blind." Alan Milburn, minister for health, said. Mr Milburn said he was "alarmed and shocked" at some of the figures involved in these cases and at the loss through prescription charge evasion, theft and forgery.

"What fraudsters are actually doing is stealing money that ought to be treating patients. My message to the fraudsters is that life is going to get tough," he added. The fraudbuster will lead a small team to help crack down on fraudulent activity the NHS. The Efficiency Report into Prescription Fraud, published in June, estimated that up to £100m was lost through prescription charge evasion each year and a further £15m from theft or forgery. No estimate has been be put on losses to doctors and pharmacists.

LIFESTYLE

Britons shun advertising overkill



The British are being bombarded by so much commercial information that one third of the population is now actively trying to avoid advertising, according to a new report.

The average British commuter sees 80 to 100 commercial messages between getting up and reaching their office each day. The average person will see 250 television advertisements per week, 350 poster sites and 400 press adverts per week, according to the Henley Centre's Media Futures

Advertising on eggs, in pub toilets or on petrol pump nozzles means that each day we are exposed to 1300 commercial messages. In total there are 11,000 television adverts broadcast every day in 1997, compared with 1987 when there were 500 shown a day. The reason for this has been an explosion in media and in commercial products. In 1950 each Sainsbury's supermarket stocked 550 product lines. In 1997 each store carries over 20,000 different products. Research by media buying agency Western Media indicates that one in three people is now what is termed an "ad avoider" - someone who goes out of their way to ignore advertising.

--- Paul McCann

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BOOKS

Climber scales literary heights

A first book, written while recovering from a fractured spine and skill sustained in an ice-climbing accident, yesterday carried off Britain's prestigious Boardman Tasker Award for mountaineering literature.

Paul Pritchard has already had cheated death on two occasions, and on the first he plunged into the sea from the cliffs of North Wales, so it may be as well he has produced his autobiography. Deep Play, at the relatively early age of 30. Pritchard is one of the iconoclasts operating at the frontiers of adventurous climbing. He has just returned from the Pamirs in central Asia where he made a first ascent of a high altitude, 1,200metre cliff. As bold in its writing style as some of Pritchard's "necky" routes, the book moves from the low life of the climbing community of Llanberis to world's greatest rock walls in Patagonia and the Karakoram.

The Boardman Tasker prize, named after two climbers who perished on Everest, is a Booker in miniature, exciting controversy in the world of mountain books. This year the judges had 25 books on their list. Pritchard carried off a cheque for £2,000. But it is recognition by his peers that matters most. As he said afterwards: "I was blown away to get on the short list." • "Deep Play" by Paul Pritchard is published by Baton Wicks, price £16.99. - Stephen Goodwin

TOURIST RATES Australia (dollars) 2.12 Italy (lira) Austria (schillings) 19.29 Japan (yen) 191.3 Malta (lira) Belgium (francs) 56.97 Canada (\$) 2.17 Netherlands (guilders) 3. II Cyprus (pounds) 18.0 Norway (kroner) 11.B Denmark (kroner) 10.58 Portugal (escudos) France (francs) 9.26 Spain (pesetas) Germany (marks) 2.77 Sweden (kroner) 12.00 Greece (drachmei) 436.42 Switzerland (francs) 2.3 Hong Kong (\$) 12.07 Turkey (līra) 274,615 Ireland (punts) 1.07 USA (\$) 1.57

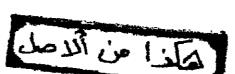
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3/THE WAY WE LIVE

Carnivores celebrate a bloody good thing



On the hoof: Members of the Carnivores' Club in action during their annual dinner at Butchers' Hall, in Smithfield, the heart of London's meat Mecca

Photograph: David Rose

They eat as much red meat as they can lay their hands on, they drink to excess and most of them smoke. Steve Boggan spent a night with the Camivores' Club as researchers at Cambridge University rubbished government claims that red meat is bad for you

"Aah, delicious - salmonella and BSE," Ned Sherrin is once supposed to have said as his starter arrived at Chez Gérard. The dish was steak tartare and the story was

served up by Jennifer Paterson, listic vegetarians and of the creep- eat meat but they are the quiet ma- er, Margaret Wichelow, of Cam- but better quality. And that one half of the Two Fat Ladies. She was one of 160 guests at the annual Carnivores' Club dinner at inevitably - Butchers' Hall, in Smithfield, London's meat Mecca. Here, health warnings were as welcome as a kissogram at a funeral, cigarettes and cigars were liberally sprinkled among the silverware and the wine flowed as if there were no tomorrow, for tomorrow would bring some monumental hangovers.

The Carnivores' Club was founded five years ago by Laurence Isaacson and Neville Abraham of the Chez Gérard group of London restaurants. They were fed up of food scares, of evange-

ing insidiousness of political correctness. "I don't have a problem with vegetarians so long as they are well sautéed and served up with a good portion of chips," said Mr Isaacson. He, like other guests, had just negotiated his way past a huge heifer tied to railings outside the hall, and wore a lapel badge of a small plate on which there was an effigy of a dead cow.

"This is simply an exercise in reminding people that red meat. as part of a balanced diet, is absolutely wonderful. Because of the BSE crisis and the subsequent controls on quality, British beef has never been better. Ninety-five

jority - the minority, the vegetarians, are the noisy ones. Well it's to bite back!" And bite back they did. The bon viveurs, mainly City types, foodies and journalists, bit into 120lb of Aberdeen Angus cross, 10 gal-

lons of game consommé, eight

pints of horseradish sauce, 100lb of cheese, 200 bottles of wine and 150lb of vegetables; all on top of the foie gras, charcuteric and canapés. Last month their consumption would have been deemed dangerous when Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, said government scientists believed too much red meat could per cent of people in this country cause cancer. Yesterday, howev-

bridge University, published results of a study among 3,660 adults which showed red-meateaters run no greater risk from cancer than those who abstain, "It is ... confusing for the general public. It possibly was not wise for the Government to issue the recommendations when they did. It

might have been premature." Back at Butchers' Hall, Charles Campion, the London Evening Standard Magazine's partly food writer, pulled from his pocket a film-wrapped pack of suhe said, eat less meat. There were gasps of horror until he said less,

seemed an appropriate theme because, for all its hedonistic bluster, the message from the club was

clear - from vegetables poisoned

by organophosphates to meat infected as a result of turning herbivores into cannibals, the food industry had been rumbled. Consumers will stand for it no more.

"People have to remember there is nothing wrong with cating good red meat - or white meat, game, fish, poultry, vegetables." said Ms Paterson, lighting another cigarette. "All these food scares permarket beef and held it aloft are ridiculous. Just go and get so he could rubbish it. We should, yourself some good, fresh food and enjoy it. That's what God gave

INDEPENDENT **GM MONDAY**

DEBORAH ROSS INTERVIEW Once thought able to walk on the Tyne, Kevin Keegan is now treated more like a fog there. He advertises with the Honey Monster (could that be Mohamed Al Fayed?) MEDIA+ The two trials of Louise Woodward: One is in court in the US, the other is everywhere else STYLE

INSIDE TODAY

A final look at a hectic week of

fashion

PROMOTION Take a short break in Paris with Eurostar from £85, Time Off, page 4

After pop, planes and cola, * Branson takes on the banks

Richard Branson yesterday launched one of his most ambitious assaults yet on the financial establishment, announcing details of a 'revolutionary' one-stop bank designed to let people run all their financial affairs from a single account. Tom Stevenson, financial editor, examines the pros and cons of the billionaire entrepreneur's latest venture.

Virgin Direct, Richard Branson's financial services company, has teamed up with Royal Bank of Scotland to take on the powerful high street banks in their own backvard - savings and loans. The company claimed yesterday that a new allin account, combining borrowings and savings, could save people tens of thousands of

nounds during their lifetimes. The new service, Virgin One, allows people to run all house to paying bills, running a current account and saving for a rainy day - using just one account. Aimed at busy people with neither the time nor the inbeing marketed as a one-stop shop for personal finances.

Mr Branson said vesterday: Banking is inherently a very straightforward husiness: it astonishes me that it has been allowed to become so complicated. The launch of Virgin One should provide a breath of fresh air - people will look back wine day and wonder why banking wasn't always done this way." Virgin One differs from oth-

er accounts by bundling up most of a customer's financial affairs into one package, offsetting positive assets such as deposit account savings against



of Scotland, with whom he has teamed up to launch Virgin One bank accounts

liabilities such as a mortgage and car loans, to give a net, negrate of interest.

A customer with a £100,000 mortgage, £5.000 car loan and £10,000 of savings might theretheir finances - from buying a fore take out a £100,000 borrowing facility with Virgin One. That would be used to repay ner liabilities of £95,000 and leave £5,000 of available spare cash. According to Virgin, be-

climation to shop around for cause a single variable interest hest-buy financial products, it is rate would be payable on the whole loan - at present 8,2 per cent - the customer would receive a higher interest rate on savings than available elsewhere and pay lower interest charges on the non-mortgage part of the debt than the high rates usually charged for unsecured loans and credit card borrowings.

Virgin will insist that account holders pay their salary into the account. Because that is used immediately to offset mortgage debt, it cams an effective rate of interest of 8.2 per cent until it is spent. There is no

they are always offset by borrowings and the account, which has a lower limit of £50,000

debt, is always in the red. Virgin said the flexibility of the account would allow customers to pay their mortgages off more quickly than a traditional 25-year fixed-term home loan easily allows, potentially saving thousands of pounds over the life of a loan.

Despite the fanfare, the Virgin account received muted applause from personal finance experts who pointed out that most people needed the external discipline imposed by a direct debit payment to pay off their mortgage that left them with an amount each month that they knew they could safely spend.

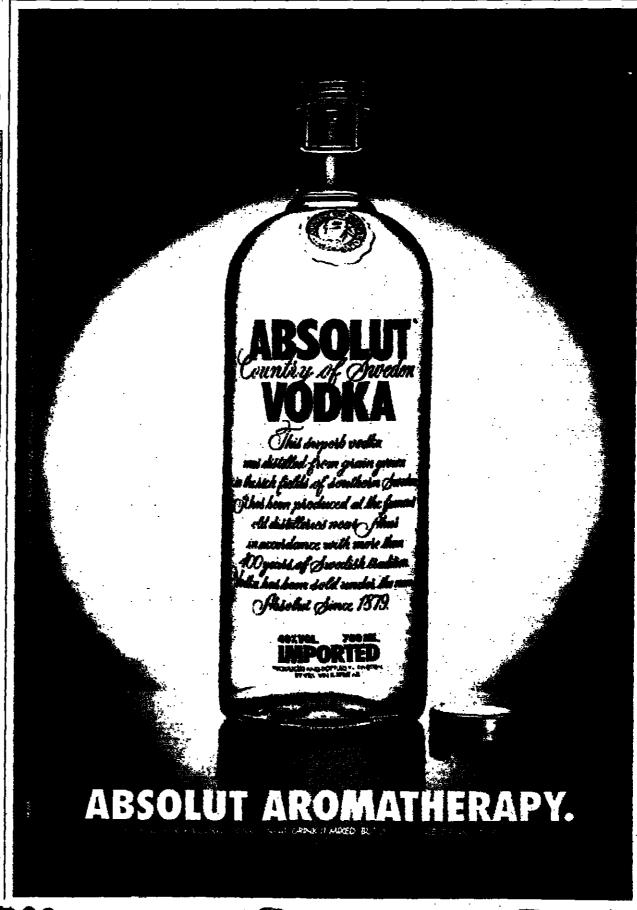
Running the whole range of financial affairs from one account, critics added, meant many customers would simply spend until they reached their agreed limit, which could be as high as the value of their home. Anyone who failed to plan ahead adequately could find themselves reaching retirement tax to pay on savings, because with a heavy debt and only one

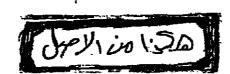
asset with which to repay it -

Other critics pointed out that anyone with a large mortgage compared to their other loans or savings would be better off shopping around for a cheaper home loan. A 1 per cent saving on a large mortgage - for example, by taking out one of the many fixed-rate mortgages now on offer - would more than offset the benefits of the other interest savings. Virgin Direct was launched

in early 1995 and has so far specialised in long-term savings products such as personal equity plans and pensions, and life insurance. Its move into banking represents the latest threat to traditional high street banks. which are already reeling from assaults by retailers such as Sainsbury and Tesco and a growing number of insurance companies.

The new 24-hour telephonehased Virgin One account will be available to Virgin Direct's 200000 existing customers from 1 November and will open to the general public next year.







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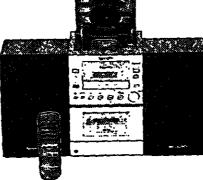
SONY Ultra-Co

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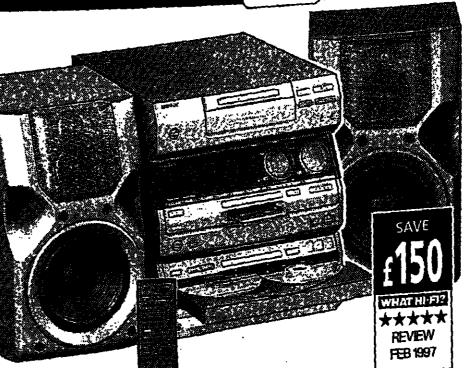
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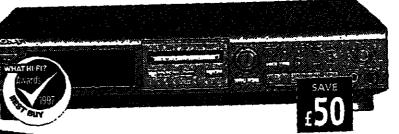
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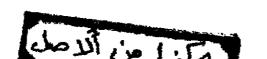
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Baby was injured before, nanny trial told

The defence in the Louise Woodward trial began yesterday and immediately produced expert medical evidence countering the prosecution version of how the baby in the nanny's charge died. David Usbome watched lawyers sow seeds of doubt.

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A APPENDED

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A specialist in neuro-pathology, Jan Leestma, said that his examination of the brain of Matthew Eappen, the child Ms Woodward is accused of killing, showed evidence of an injury suffered weeks before he was rushed to hospital in an ultimately fatal coma.

The testimony, elicited by Barry Scheck on the defence bench, appeared to constitute the very linchpin of the defence's case that the cause of death pre-dated 4 February. the day the prosecution says Ms Woodward violently shook the child and slammed his head against a hard surface.

The implication may be that the child suffered an earlier episode that either went undetected or was concealed by his parents. It will be enough for the defence, however, simply to create sufficient doubt in the minds of the jurors about the charges against Ms Woodward of a "cruel and atrocious" assault.

Dr Leestma's observations, which he sought to illustrate with a series of blown-up photographs of slides of brain tissue presented to the jury, directly contradicted the testimony of several medical experts brought earlier by the prosecution that the cause of death was so-called "shaken baby syndrome".

Earlier, the jurors heard from the head teachers of the high and primary schools attended by Ms Woodward close served brain of Matthew last



A family photograph of Brendan, left, and Matthew Eappen that was entered as evidence in the murder trial of their British nanny, Louise Woodward, who has been accused of killing Matthew in February of this year Photograph: Reuters

The highly sympathetic words offered by both witnesses represented the first attempts by the defence to blunt the often damaging testimony offered earlier in the trial by prosecution witnesses about her alleged fondness of late nights and

unreliability as a child-minder. Under hours of examination by Mr Scheck, Dr Leestma said at the outset that his findings. established after he was given access to the formaldehyde-prereasonable doubt two facts that could prove crucial if an acquittal is to be finally delivered

blood clot existed between the brain and brain lining called the dura - before 4 February and had probably been there for three to four weeks. He also asserted that he saw evidence of re-bleeding in the area of the sub-dural clot

the then eight-month-old boy and his death on 9 February. Asked by Mr Scheck what

kind of event would have been They were first, that a necessary to trigger the fatal rebleeding - in other words an event caused by Ms Woodward - he replied, "It may take almost nothing". He added: "The capillaries are so thin and delicate they just rupture." Dr Leestma, who practises at a brain institute in Chicago, which can be assumed to have told the jury that the presence been the cause of the neuro- and the age of the original clot

to her Chester family home. month, demonstrated beyond logical collapse suffered by was evidenced first by a third membrane on the surface of the dura when there should only be two. Moreover, the thickness of that neo-membrane dated the occurrence of the clot to about 3-4 weeks be-

fore 4 February. "We've got a third membrane that is not supposed to be there," the doctor said, pointing to areas of tissue on the photograph and highlighting them with a marker pen. He also pointed to what he said was evidence of calci-

um deposits. Such deposits, he said, accumulate during a period of perhaps three weeks after some trauma is suffered by

On the pivotal issue of parts of the brain and dura apparently lost during autopsy, Dr Leestma said they could have been crucial in identifying the pre-existing clot. "This was really the bullseye of the medical problem that was going on," he said, adding that the loss likewise of the clot itself was similarly unfortunate.

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Legal aid faces sweeping changes

Sweeping cuts in legal aid are to be announced today by Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor. Colin Brown and Patricia Wynn Davies say that while lawyers are on the warpath, ministers are unrepentant

Lord Irvine will justify the most sweeping changes made to the legal system by declaring that radical action was needed to bring the £1.47bn bill for legal aid under control, even if that means taking on the vested interests of the Bar.

Today's speech signals a huge cost-cutting exercise which will result in the most severe reduction in access to civil justice since legal aid began in 1949. It will be seen as the biggest attack on the welfare state by the Labour government. Plans for privatisation of almost half the civil legal-aid scheme far exceed anything contemplated by the Tories. Only a relatively small number of cases involving social welfare, housing, immigration and possibly medical-negligence claims are to be spared the axe.

The most far-reaching cuts will be in legal aid for civil cases, such as the pursuit of damages claims, and libel actions, which will be effectively ended and replaced by "no win, no fee" arrangements. Lawyers who agree to take on the case get paid only if they succeed. Most family cases will continue to get legal aid but lawyers must convince the legal-aid board they have a 75-per-cent chance of success.

Lawyers will be assessed on their strike rate and if they pursue too many cases which fail they could get struck off an approved list for legal-aid cases. There will be a cash limit to keep a lid on legal aid, which the Government said had risen by 115 per cent in the past six years. Lawyers taking on cases will have to work to a fixed contract price, whatever the real in 30 weeks of allocations,

cost, to keep their bills down.

Downing Street made a preemptive strike against the bostility of the legal profession to the changes by making it clear Tony Blair is fully behind the measures to be announced by Lord Irvine. The Prime Minister's office said lawyers' bills had risen 38 per cent in six years -26 per cent more than inflation.

Stepping boldly into the lion's den, the Lord Chancellor will tell a conference of lawyers in Cardiff: "Legal aid must be refocused. It must be made a tool to promote access to justice for the needy and not seen by the public as something basically keeping lawyers in

An exception to the curbs on legal aid for damages could be made for cases where there is a public interest in reaching a judgment, for example where a legal precedent may be set. Such cases could be paid for out of a special fund by the Legal Aid Board. More consultation will be carried out cases of medical negligence.

Lord Irvine will stress that the poorest people will be protected. The previous government planned to make recipients of income support contribute small sums, £5 or £10, towards legal aid. That plan will be scrapped.

The Government is also acting to prevent a repeat of the one of the most expensive criminal legal-aid cases, the defence of the Maxwell brothers, which ran up a bill for the taxpayer of £14.78m and is still rising. In future criminal lawyers will be on a fixed hourly rates, negotiated with the legal-aid board before the case gets the go-ahead. There will be a consultation paper on court fees next month.

The small-claims level will be increased from £3.000 to £5,000; access to the smallclaims court for personal-injury claims will stay at cases involving up to £1,000 but a fast-track system will be introduced for cases involving between £5,000 and £15,000 to be heard with-

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Police focus on road rage death car

Police are closing in on the road rage driver who caused the death of a young couple in London. Steve Boggan reports on a day of progress and a mother's heart-rending appeal for help.

The mother of Toby Exley, the 22-year-old driver killed with his girlfriend in a road rage crash, made a tearful appeal for witnesses yesterday as police revealed they had established that the car thought responsible was one of only 5,000 similar vehicles.

Joan Exley, 45, had to be supported by her sons, Robin 19, and Ben, 17, as she read out an appeal to the killer and to anyone who saw him force Toby and his girlfriend, Karen

Martin, 20, off the road and into the path of another vehicle.

The couple died on 6 October in what police initially thought was a tragic accident on the A316 at Hanworth, west London. However, a manslaughter investigation was

launched on Thursday when a motorcyclist came forward and reported seeing a powerful white car ram into them three times - apparently because they were keeping to the speed

Addressing the killer, Mrs Exley said: "Please come forward to answer our questions. I'm sure you didn't intend to kill Toby and Karen. If nobody catches up with you, please don't be so aggressive with your powerful car in the future as it obviously has the power to kill."

And, to potential witnesses, she said: "Please try not to be

afraid or embarrassed to come forward with information. Think of it as doing a last service to two young people. We miss Toby and Karen deeply and they didn't deserve to die

so violently or so young." Detective Chief Inspector Norman McKinlay, the officer leading the inquiry, said there were only 5,000 white cars with a registration number beginning K5, as reported by the motorcyclist. He said detectives were confident of "dramatically reducing" that figure if they receive more information from

In particular, he said, six motorists travelling along the Great Chertsey Road at the time of the crash could shed vital light on the case. None has yet come forward, but he believes one or more of them particularly the driver of a pur-

ple Allegro - might have seen the offending car.

Twenty officers are working full time on the investigation, and house-to-house inquiries have begun near the crash

Police checked speed cameras along the route and on nearby roads yesterday to see if the white car was caught on film.

The couple's Ford Fiesta XR2, which was severely damaged, was being examined by forensic scientists for clues to the car which rammed it. However, the fact that its rear had to be cut off by the firefighters who freed Mr Exley and Miss Martin means valuable evidence might have been accidentally destroyed.

□ Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 0181 247 6377 or 0181 247 6343, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.



Robin Exley, brother of the road rage victim Toby Exley and their mother Joan appeal for witnesses to the fatal incident in Hanworth, west London

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Accounts differ as bank staff strike

Hundreds of branches of Barclays Bank were closed yesterday and many more disrupted as staff staged a 24-hour strike in protest at a performance-related pay system.

While management emphasised that most branches were open, union leaders argued that 80 per cent of the network suffered and that eight out of 10 Barclaycard staff had walked out.

Jim Lowe, assistant secretary of the Banking Insurance and Finance Union, predicted an even stronger response on Monday when employees are due to strike for a second time. Staff will also be banning overtime over the weekend.

Sister union UNIFI said the industrial action had cost Barclays tens of millions of pounds and claimed that up to 28,000 employees had joined the stop-

page.
Mr Lowe pointed out that
Barclays had admitted that 200 branches were forced to shut yesterday, but contended that the figure was "substantially higher" with more forced to

close at peak times or shut early because of a lack of staff. Branches which stayed open were only able to offer a very restricted" service with many being staffed with agency or

casual workers. Mr Lowe said that bank employees were not the most militant workers and the fact that they had walked out showed how angry they were. "The devastating impact of this first action has given confidence to those staff who didn't come out today. They'll be joining their

colleagues on Monday." A spokeswoman for Barclays poured scorn on union claims. She said 5,000 employees at most had joined the action. Only 209 out of 1985 branches had been closed and they were shut for security reasons. There was no significant impact on Barclaycard or the telephone

banking service, she said. The spokeswoman conceded however that there was disruption in parts of the north west of England, south London and South Wales. — Barrie Clement

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Care worker's sex confession 'ignored by police'

A care worker who gave himself up to the police and confessed to a string of sex abuse crimes was told to go away and come back later, the Old Bailey heard yesterday.

David Blankfield explained he had become a Christian and

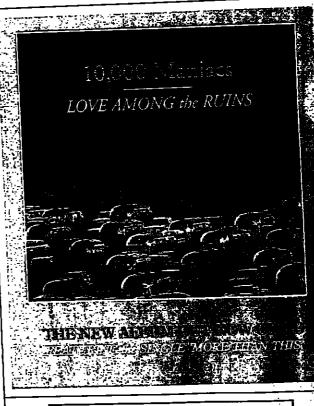
wanted to reveal what he had done over the years while employed both in a hospital and in a residential home for the handicapped. "It may be that police could not really believe what they were hearing, because in a short time the interview was terminated. He was told to go away and come back later that week, if he still

felt the same," said Brian O'Neill, for the defence. Blankfield, 40, from Leigh-on-Sea, Essex was jailed for a totally handicapped patients and a child in the early 1980s and indecently assaulting a ten-year-old girl in 1994. Blankfield was working for an East Sussex hospital when the first assault occurred. He then went to work for social services in central London at a residential home between 1981 and 1985.

Cows blamed for festival bug

An E coli outbreak which struck down nine fans at this year's Glastonbury Festival was due to cattle grazing on the site, an inquiry found. An investigation was launched after revellers fell ill with the stomach bug. Investigators initially feared the outbreak of E coli O 157 was caused by poorly cooked food sold to people at the festival.

But the report yesterday by the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre, part of the Public Health Laboratory Service, disclosed that the bacteria had found its way from cattle dung into mud on the site at Pilton, Somerset. All the victims - who included a two-year-old girl - made a complete recovery.



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Lead pipe poison threat to poor

Water companies will have to spend £2bn replacing lead pipes in order to comply with a new European law on safe drinking water. But, says Environment Correspondent Nicholas Schoon, hundreds of thousands of people, many of them on low incomes, could still end up with water containing too much lead.

European environment ministers agreed this week to enforce a much tougher standard for lead in drinking water. The heavy metal has long been known to be a potent poison for brains and nerves, stunting the mental development of children at even low concentrations.

drinking water directive, is 50 micrograms will be given advice by the Government's of lead per litre. The new one, part of a Drinking Water Inspectorate, and the warevised directive, is set at 10mg. to be ter companies. Many people, especially the achieved across the union within 15 years. elderly and less well off, will not want to An interim standard of 25mg will have to be hit within five years.

It is estimated that about 8 million can do, beyond giving the best advice. That homes - a third of all in Britain - receive includes letting the tap run for a minute water with lead above this new standard, in the morning to get rid of the high lead which brings Europe into line with rec-Forumendations from the World Health Organisation. That is because the homes have minister, said: "Householders will be oflead piping, and are in soft water areas

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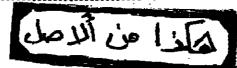
replacing lead piping that connects the mains to individual buildings, and will spend £2bn on the task. According to the Water Services Association, which represents nine of the big ten regional water companies, every lead connecting pipe will be replaced.

But a question remains over what happens to the lead piping inside homes which, in some areas, will also have to be removed in order for the new standard to be met. The water companies are quick to point out that this is not their responsibility but that of the householder.

It costs about £400 to replace the most important section of piping, running from the boundary of the property to the kitchen tap. Yet the Government is not considering any extra grants for the work, beyond the very limited ones available for low income households through local councils.

People who ought to replace their own The current standard, under the old piping in order to meet the new standard pay for the work. But both the Government and the companies say there is nothing they

Michael Meacher, the environment fered advice to help them take an informed where the acidity dissolves out the metal. decision on options for action if they have The water industry has already begun lead pipes."





Strange habit: Friars climbing over sandbags placed by ground staff at Aylesford Priory, near Maidstone in Kent, to protect the 13th-century listed building - home to a community of Carmelite monks - against flooding by water from the nearby banks of the River Medway

UK faces action for failing to implement EU rules

While new laws are passed by Europe, Britain and other EU nations have been caught Yout failing to implement the existing ones. The UK has been warned that it faces prosecution in the European Court and possible fines for its shortcomings, writes Katherine Butler.

Slamming governments for paying lip-service to the environ- lenges such as climate change, Commission exposed 10 member states, including Britain, for infringement of the bloc's flagship environmental law.

The 15 governments have had more than five years ago to implement a directive which aims to protect endangered are rare natural habitats - the continent's wildlife "jewels in the crown". Their failure to do so leaves the 10 facing referral to the European Court unless they take action within weeks.

The Commission also took the unusual step of publicly announcing that it is opening legal proceedings against Britain and 12 other member states for failure to implement legislation ularly on endangered habitats. on waste signed up to six years

This announcement took British officials by surprise, as national list of the sites to be inthe usual procedure is for Brus- cluded in an EU habitats netsels to first write to the member state reminding it of its obligations under the European Union treaty and to open proceedings only when this fails.

But the Commission is clearly impatient with foot dragging by governments who although boastful on the world stage of their commitment to meeting the great environmental chalown rules. Environment ministers who

make the law were obviously coming to Brussels "for a free lunch" rather than because they had any commitment to the environment, Peter Jorgensen a Commission spokesman said.

"There is clearly something wrong with the willingness of member states to implement decisions they themselves have taken," said Mr Jorgensen, citing a long list of environmental legislation where court mission. proceedings are now pending.

Yesterday's announcements come in an attempt to shame the accused into action particBritain's transgression, according to the Commission, is its failure to submit a complete

Other nations, especially France and Germany, have a worse record on implementing the babitats directive.

Natural woodlands or sand dune systems designated by governments are given legal protection, for example, against over-use by farmers. Habitats of endangered plant and animal species such as otters or certain ment yesterday the European systematically fail to apply their orchids, are also supposed to be covered by the directive.

British officials said the Government's decision to hold public consultations on the sites to be designated for special protection had slowed the process.

So far, 255 British sites covering, for example, the River Derwent in Cumbria, the Devils Dyke semi-natural grass-land in Cambridgeshire and the submerged sea caves at Rathlin Island, Co Antrim, have been notified to the Com-

A further list is expected to be ready by the end of the year, but the Commission says this rate of progress is too slow.

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Rat tsar needed to clear sewers

The time may be ripe for a 'rat isar' to crack down on the booming population of rodents, a conference in

London heard yesterday. The water companies - whose sewage pipes they hirk in - and local council environmental health officers agree that they are failing to coordinate, and current systems of pest con-

trok are inadequate. Before privatisation, councils and the old, state-owned water authorities had a much closer working relationship. Now water companies complain that the councils do not notify them about rat infestations when the sewers are a likely source. Councils allege that the water companies are no longer regularly putting poison bait in the sewers.

The problems emerged at a conference in London devoted to rats and sewers. Some delegates felt central Government should take the lead role in bringing the two groups together and drawing up a new code of rat-busting standards and practices.

Stephen Battersby, of Surrey University's Robens Centre for Environmental Health, complained that the new crop of manisters showed little interest. The centre had asked for one to attend to give the Government's view, but none came.

He believes the new, plastic pipes used in sewers may be less rat-resistant than the old cast iron ones, and poor workmanship when installing drains may be a factor.

Badger killers convicted by DNA

Four men were yesterday jailed for five months after being found guilty of killing a protected animal in the RSPCA's first badger case using DNA evidence.

Garry Shaw, Garry Pettipierre, Michael Holland and David Wragg were found guilty at Bakewell Magistrates court, Derbyshire, of offences under the 1992 Protection of Badgers Act, which included digging out a badger and killing it. The men, all from Derbyshire, were bailed pending an appeal at crown court.

Gathering enough evidence to prosecute a person for ill-treating badgers had previously been virtually impossible. Unless a culprit was caught red-handed, it was very difficult to produce enough evidence to bring them to court.

Although nobody saw the four men committing the crime, a passer-by spotted them near the sett where the animal's body lay, and called the RSPCA and police.

DNA testing showed blood stains on the men's clothing and a knife had come from the animal. The court also heard Wragg and Holland were active members of field-sports societies and ordered that dogs belonging to all the men be forfeited.

An RSPCA spokeswoman, Jo Crozier, said: "If it hadn't been for DNA testing, we would never have been able to prove that it was these men who killed the animal, even though they were found only 600 yards from the body. All we would have had was circumstantial evidence and that wouldn't have been strong enough to convict them." Since 1986 there have been 271 convictions of badger offences by the RSPCA but animal-welfare groups now hope increasing use of DNA testing will help make many more. Amanda Keliv



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What can we do for you?

Chemical victim wins partial victory

Campaigners against the use of organophosphate pesticides claimed a victory yesterday when a judge ruled that a farmhand was made ill by his exposure to the chemicals.

John Hill. who arrived in court in a wheelchair, had claimed that his loss of memory and other symptoms were due to chronic chemical poisoning from treating crops with the OP insecticide, Actellic D.

Mr Hill, 60, is seeking damages after being dismissed by his employer William Tomkins Ltd. of Peterborough.

But the 106-page written judgment by Mrs Justice Smith did not represent a total triumph for Mr Hill. The judge ruled that some of his continuing symptoms were due to other factors.

"My findings are in general that he has suffered ill-effects from his exposure to Actellic D in 1993, and some of his continuing symptoms are attributable to that exposure, but some of them are in part attributable to psychological factors and have at times, been exaggerated by him and his wife in description to doctors - and have also on occasions been affected by the frequency with which he has been examined by doctors," she said.

William Tomkins Ltd admitted that it exposed Mr Hill to Actellic D and that he suffered an adverse reaction to it.

But it argued that the effects of the exposure were short-lived and that any long-term ill health from which he had suffered since 1993 had not been caused or contributed to by his

It is likely that the two sides will come to an agreement on damages.

Elizabeth Sigmund, co-ordinator of the OP Information Network, said: "This is much more than just a partial victory. The contention was that Mr Hill was neurotic and a hypochondriac. The judge has accepted that he has got real psychiatric damage."

Organophosphates have been blamed for inducing chronic fatigue, depression, panic attacks and memory loss in those who are exposed to them without adequate pro-

tection. The most frequent complainants are farmers who have used the chemicals in sheep dips or as insecticides on crops. Hundreds of Gulf War veterans have claimed they were made ill by their exposure to OP sprays, used to kill desert pests.

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Britfrock Charlotte Flyvholme, Rachel Kirby, Chloe Webb, Caroline Salisbury and 'Stina' Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Britain's fresh-faced followers of fashion

The British fashion world unveiled five supermodels of the future yesterday to help fly

the flag for the industry. The public was treated to a rare glimpse of the girls - in-

cluding three 14-year-olds - as

DIXONS

they took time off from school. Wrapped in Union Jacks, the fledgling pack was helping to promote next week's 1997 Lloyds Bank Fashion Awards.

Chloe Webb, Charlotte

Flyvholme and Rachel Kirby, all 14, appeared undaunted by the publicity. They have all shot to the top of the industry after being discovered last

Rachel's mother, Gaye

Kirby, from north London, insisted her daughter still had her "feet on the ground" despite shooting to international success. "She is doing her GCSEs next year, this is just fun for her, it is acting."

Warder's mystery death 'accidental'

A prison officer found strapped in his car in a river two years after vanishing died as a result of a road accident, a coroner decided yesterday. William Morris said there was no evidence that Peter Curran, 38, of March, Cambridgeshire, had been the victim of foul play, and recorded a verdict of accidental death.

But lawyers for his widow, Christine, said they would push for a new inquest before a jury. Mr Curran, a guard at Whitemoor top-security prison, near March, disappeared on 14 May 1995 after being suspended over allegations that he smuggled toiletries to prisoners. He was found in a river near Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, on 12 February this year. He vanished eight months after a break-out by IRA prisoners from Whitemoor and his car was recovered a month after a trial linked to the escape collapsed.

Mrs Curran has suggested he might have been murdered because he knew of the breakout. But Mr Morris said any suggestion of foul play was at best inference and conjecture. Det Chief Insp Trevor Bracken said no evidence of any criminal act had been uncovered at any stage.

The hearing, at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, was told Mr Curran was distressed after being suspended. He left home in his car one Sunday morning, telling his wife he was going to play golf, although he did not take his clubs. He was never seen again. Police told the inquest the fenland road along which he was thought to have driven after leaving home was notoriously dangerous.

Cars regularly left the road and plunged into the river running alongside, killing their occupants. Mr Morris concluded that Mr Curran had probably been involved in such an accident. "This would not have been the first time where a single vehicle has left the road on that stretch," he said. "I have in mind that Mr Curran would probably have had a lot on his mind. "Any steering error in that situation, particularly if there was speed involved, would have been disastrous."

The coroner said it was impossible to say for sure on what day Mr Curran had died because of the decomposed state of his body when it was found. But he said he thought that death had probably taken place on or about 14 May 1995 - the day Mr Curran disappeared.

DNA tests fail to trap killer

DNA testing on 169 men from a French village has failed to trap the killer of Caroline Dickinson, the British girl who was raped and murdered during a school trip last year.

Police, who have come under increasing pressure to catch the killer, said yesterday that they intend to test even more men from Pleine Fougeres as they extend their inquiries to surrounding villages in northern France.

The negative results came as both a disappointment to Caroline's family and as a relief to the villagers, who have been living in a climate of suspicion.

The men, tested during a three-day period last week, were aged between 15 and 35: the age range will now be ex-

tended to include men up to 50 years old. Caroline, 13, was killed at a

youth hostel in Pleine Fougeres during a trip organised by her school from Launceston, Comwall. Her father, John, a local authority environmental health officer from Bodmin, said his family was grateful to the population of Pleine Fougeres.

The family had been critical of the original French investigation which appeared to grind to a halt following the high profile arrest and then release of a vagrant picked up in the first hours after the killing.

However, since the case was handed over to a new investigating magistrate, Judge Renaud van Ruymeke, during the summer, there has been an in-

"We would like to thank all the inhabitants of Pleine Fougeres for their co-operation in taking part [in the testing], and hope the next wave of tests in November will be similarly supported," said Mr Dick-"It is vitally important in our

crease in activity in the case.

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minds to remove the veil of suspicion from the village so equally important lines of inquiry can be examined.

"We do not feel downhearted at the negative results. We feel confident that with the determined efforts of Judge Renaud van Ruymbeke and the revitalised investigation team, the culprit will be caught in due

— Steve Boggan

Young brothers critical after stab attack

six, are critically ill after being stabbed in the neck yesterday, police said.

Adam Schofield and elder brother Daniel were attacked in their home in Lodge Street, Accrington, Lancashire, Ambulance crews were called to the house after the boys' mother went into Accrington police station to report an assault.

Both boys were taken to Blackburn Royal Infirmary. A and they're lovely little chil-

5.4.5.

Two brothers, aged four and spokesman for Lancashire police said: This is a tragic incident. For two boys as young as this to he stabbed is beyond belief.

"Adam is in theatre at Blackburn Royal Infirmary ... the mother is with the boys and being helped by a family liaison officer."

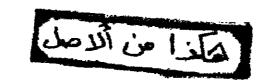
Neighbour Margaret Gregory said: "This is a terrible thing to have happened. I've seen the boys playing out

dren. There doesn't seem to have been any trouble at the house before and they seemed like a nice family. I heard a bang this morning and when I saw the ambulance arrive I thought perhaps somebody had been shot. The postman later told me he had seen the house with its front door virtually ripped off, so that must have been what we heard."

A man is helping police with their inquiries.







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Gay sex story lines spell an uncertain future for This Life



The four million fans of This Life, the television cult sensation, face 2 further wait now that plans for a third series have ground to a halt. David Lister, Arts News Editor, reports that an attempt to inject more gay romance into scripts was partly to blame.

It topped BBC2's ratings and kept millions glued to the television. But it is understood that plans for a new series of This Life, the love and career traumas of a bunch of twentysomethings sharing a south London house, have gone on hold with no immediate prospect of production work beginning.

BBC chiefs are said to be furious at the prospect of losing such a ratings winner. But the show is made by independent production company World Productions, run by Tony Garnett, the 61-year-old producer whose credits stretch back to Cathy Come Home in the Sixties.

It is understood that the current impasse has arisen after falling out with newly-signed scriptwriter Mark Ravenhill. Ravenhill, 31, is the playwright who wrote west end hit Shopping And Fucking, which with its cocktail of drugs and sex including gay sex, drew a large audience of young people, and was dubbed the "Trainspotting

of the South". People involved in This Life say that Ravenhill's draft scripts had brought in a completely different cast of characters from the ones previously sharing the Southwark flat. And though there was one gay love story in the last series, the next series

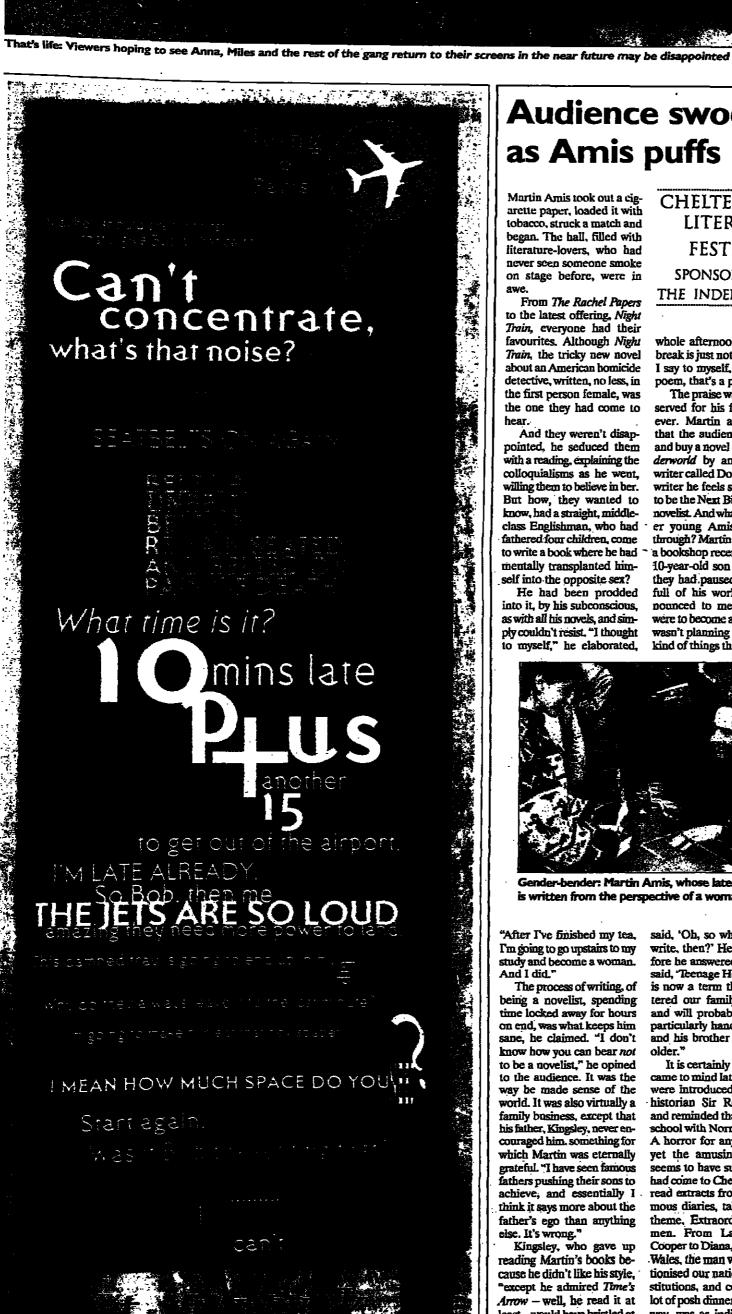
emphasis on gay storylines. One source said yesterday: "It is safe to say that gay sex would

have been an ongoing theme." Tony Garnett was said to be unhappy with the draft scripts and Ravenhill has now parted company with him. There are not thought to be any further

plans to return to the project. A spokeswoman at World Productions said yesterday: "I think Mark Ravenhill may have left. We don't know at the moment whether there will be a third series or not. We don't

know what is happening." Mark Ravenhill's agent Mel Kenyon said: "There is nothing to say about this. It is an administrative thing and a matter for World Productions."

A BBC spokesman said that no decision had yet been taken on whether plans for a third series had been scrapped.



Audience swoons as Amis puffs

Martin Amis took out a cigarette paper, loaded it with tobacco, struck a match and began. The hall, filled with literature-lovers, who had never seen someone smoke on stage before, were in

From The Rachel Papers to the latest offering, Night Train, everyone had their favourites. Although Night Train, the tricky new novel about an American homicide detective, written, no less, in the first person female, was the one they had come to

And they weren't disappointed, he seduced them with a reading, explaining the colloquialisms as he went, willing them to believe in ber. But how, they wanted to know, had a straight, middleclass Englishman, who had fathered four children, come to write a book where he had mentally transplanted him-

self into the opposite sex? He had been prodded into it, by his subconscious, as with all his novels, and simply couldn't resist. "I thought to myself," he elaborated, **CHELTENHAM** LITERARY **FESTIVAL** SPONSORED BY

whole afternoon on a line-

THE INDEPENDENT

break is just not me. I think, I say to myself, that's not a poem, that's a paragraph." The praise wasn't just re-

served for his father, however. Martin also insisted that the audience rush out and buy a novel entitled Underworld by an American writer called Don DeLillo, a writer he feels sure is going to be the Next Big American novelist. And what of the other young Amises coming through? Martin had been in a bookshop recently with his 10-year-old son Jacob, and they had paused by a shelf full of his work. "He announced to me that if he were to become a novelist, he wasn't planning to write the kind of things that I wrote. I



Gender-hender: Martin Amis, whose latest book is written from the perspective of a woman

I'm going to go upstairs to my study and become a woman.

The process of writing, of time locked away for hours on end, was what keeps him sane, he claimed. "I don't and his brother get a little know how you can bear not to be a novelist," he opined to the audience. It was the way be made sense of the family business, except that his father, Kingsley, never enwhich Martin was eternally grateful. "I have seen famous fathers pushing their sons to father's ego than anything else. It's wrong."

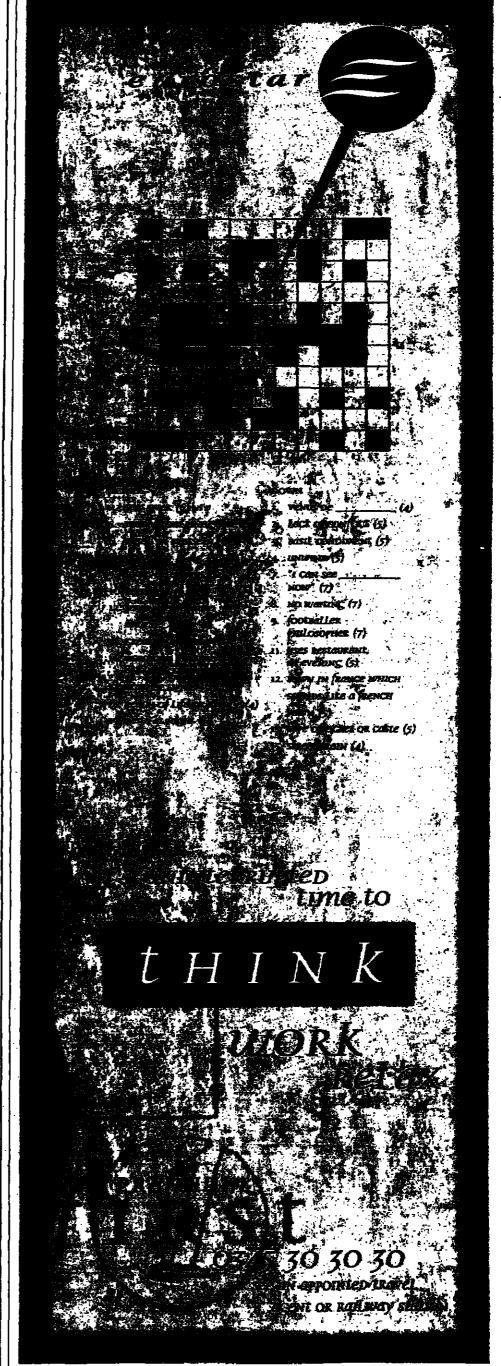
Kingsley, who gave up reading Martin's books because he didn't like his style, "except he admired Time's Arrow - well, he read it at least - would have bristled at the idea but his son believes they are alike. As one, al-

"I think that if our birthdays had been transferred I would have written his novels and he would have written mine. Except that he also wrote poetry, which I rarely do. I have had two poems published, but I don't really have the patience for poetry. To concentrate a

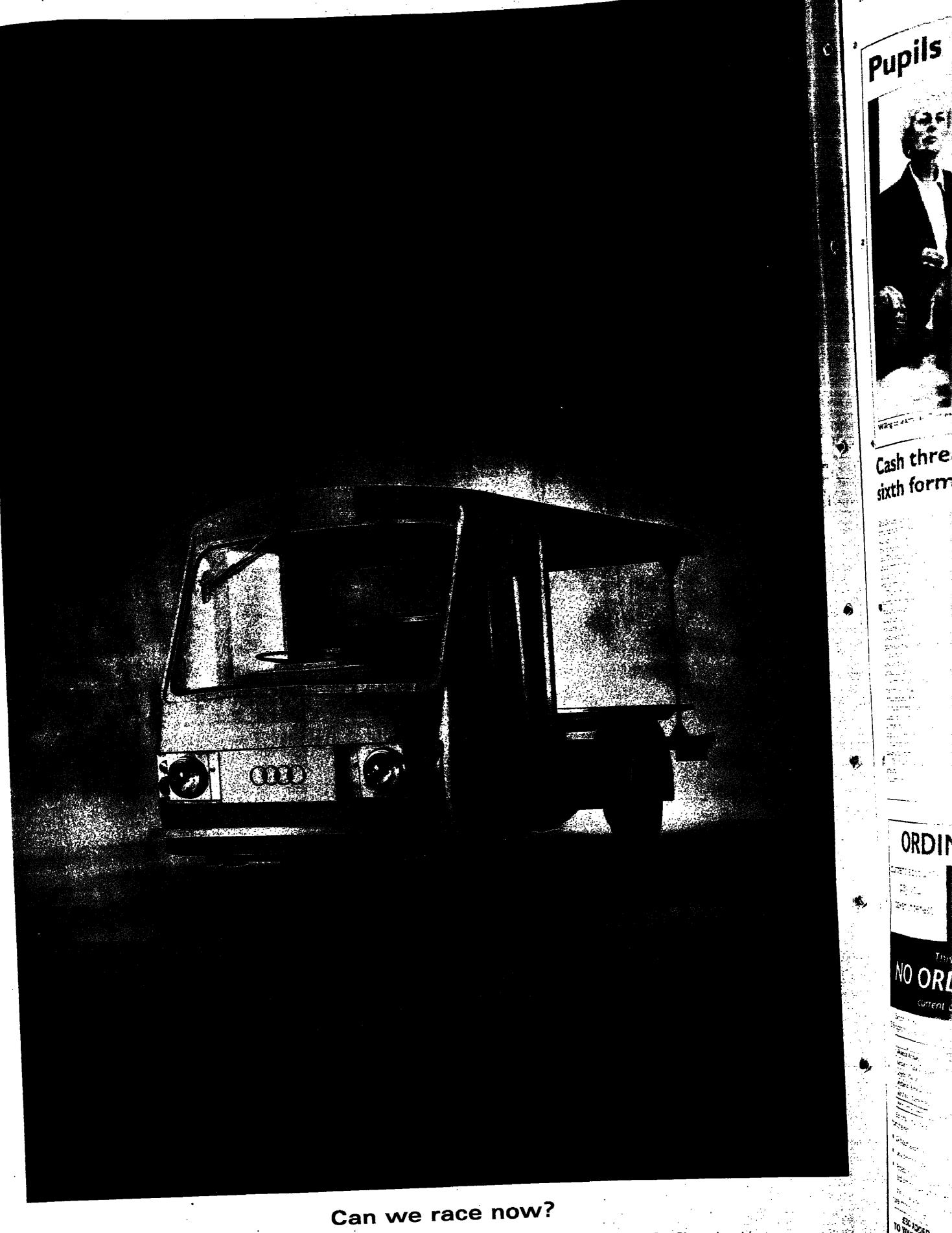
"After I've finished my tea, said, 'Oh, so what will you write, then?' He pause, before he answered, and then said, Teenage Horror'. This is now a term that has enbeing a novelist, spending tered our family language and will probably come in particularly handy when he

It is certainly a term that were introduced to the art world. It was also virtually a historian Sir Roy Strong, and reminded that he was at school with Norman Tebbit. couraged him, something for A horror for any teenager, yet the amusing Sir Roy seems to have survived. He had come to Cheitenham to achieve, and essentially I read extracts from his infathink it says more about the mous diaries, taking as his theme. Extraordinary Women. From Lady Diana Cooper to Diana, Princess of Wales, the man who revolutionised our national art institutions, and consumed a lot of posh dinners along the way, was as indiscreet and charming as ever. When he first met Mar-

garet Thatcher, he reminisced, she wittered on to him about her Worcester porcelain collection. "It was really the only thing she was interested in. So when she became Prime Minister, we sent a truck-load of the stuff round. Dreadful, really, but she turned out to be a great ally."

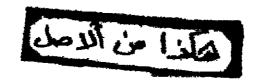


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Pupils skip lunchbreaks to revive a 'dead' language



Children as young as seven are giving up their lunchbreaks to learn to speak Latin. Kathy Marks says that a new initiative to introduce the language of Ovid and Tacitus into state primary schools is proving to be an unexpected success.

For the 30 or so popils who attend Minimus Club every Thursday lunchtime at Belle Vue Primary School. Latin is anything but a dead language. "Salve, Esthera sum," says nine-year-old Esther Berry, introducing herself over the telephone.

Minimus is a new Latin course, based around the first modern textbook to be designed specifically for children aged 7 to 10. It is being piloted this term in 20 schools and is likely to be taken up by dozens of others.

Minimus (small mouse) is the name of a pet kept by an imaginary family around which the textbook revolves. The family mother, father and offspring, plus three slaves, mouse and cat (Vibrissa, meaning Whiskers) - live in Roman Britain, in a camp near Hadrian's Wall.

A series of stories in cartoon form introduce pupils to the rudiments of Latin language and grammar, incorporating elements of Roman civilisation and culture, and even a dash of Greek mytholo- a dreary subject," said Mrs Bell.



A strip from the cartoon stories that luce pupils to Latin grammar

gy. The aim is to make Latin fun and accessible to young children, and to give them a taste of what classicists believe are its wider educational benefits.

Latin was already taught in some primaries, but very patchily, and mainly in the private sector. The new project is the first concerted attempt to bring it into state schools, and has the warm support of the David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

The textbook was written by Barbara Bell, secretary of the Joint Association of Classical Teachers, which is dedicated to keeping interest in Greek and Latin

I hope it will give Latin a whole new image, that children will see that it is not

She believes that the study of Latin enriches education in several ways. "The language itself is very precise and structured, so it helps with many other lan-

guages, including English," she said. The literature is second to none, and the civilisation is our history. The Romans came here and conquered us, and we can

see the effects all around us." The problem for schools like Belle Vue primary - based at Stourbridge in the West Midlands and one of seven state primaries involved in the pilot - is finding space for Latin in a crowded National Curriculum. As a consequence, many are teaching it as an optional lunchtime or after-school

Belle Vue's head teacher, Jan Compson, said she was taken aback by the number of children who attended voluntarily. 'I would never have expected them to be so enthusiastic," she said. "I took it on as an experiment, but it has really fired their imaginations."

Esther Berry said: "When I first heard about the Latin, I thought it would be really boring. But it's really good. I can speak to my friends in a different language. I said hello to my granny in Latin the other day and she was really surprised."

Eight-year-old Christopher Casey said he enjoyed finding out what the Romans got up to. "I like saying the Latin words." he said. "I play football or play with my friends in other lunchtimes, but I prefer going to the Minimus Club."

Cash threat to sixth forms

The Government is considering fending reforms which would see schools penalised for the first time for pupils who drop dit. The changes, designed to end competition with colleges, buld put bundreds of small xth forms out of business.

The proposals follow complaints from colleges that the resent system leaves them sadvantaged in the race for udents. Under changes being iscussed by ministers, 16-18 ear-olds in school sixth forms fould be funded on the same asis as those in sixth form and urther education colleges.

At present, colleges receive heir money for each student in hree tranches. A small portion dent enrolls, the lion's share The question of whether the comes while he or she is studying, and a final small amount brought into line is still to be reis received only if the student takes final exams.

The system is designed to ensure colleges do not recruit under tighter funding. students who will swiftly drop

out, and provides an incentive to ensure they stay the course.

Schools, however, receive full funding for each pupil automatically from their local education authority providing the pupil is on roll at the time of an annual census in January.

Colleges complain that the system means schools are not penalised when pupils drop out part way through a course.

In 1995-6 the funding for a

student taking three A-levels is around £7,000 in a school, £6,400 in a general FE college and £6,640 in a sixth form college. Under the proposals being considered by Baroness Blackstone, the education minister, schools would use the of the cash is paid when the stu- same funding system as colleges. level of funding should also be solved, though this could lead to the closure of small sixth forms which could not survive

— Lucy Word

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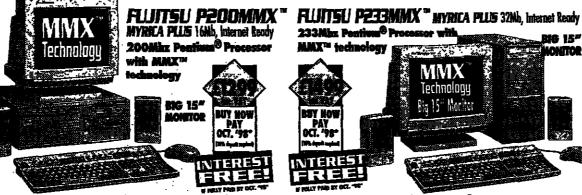
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Anger greets Ulster march proposal

The Government wants to avoid a recurrence of highly disruptive annual loyalist parades, such as the Drumcree march. David McKittrick, Ireland Correspondent, outlines both the new legislation announced yesterday and the criticisms which greeted it.

Mo Mowlam, The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday gave details of the commission in an attempt to avert more Drumcree-style clashes next summer.

Under the proposed legislation, the commission will take over from the Royal Ulster Constabulary's responsibility for making decisions on contested parades. It will be able to order re-routings and to impose conditions on marches. It will also encourage "mediation and education" on the pa-

Large-scale disruption has been experienced for the last three summer marching seasons in Northern Ireland, centring around the traditional but bitterly-contested Drumcree Orange march through a Catholic district of Portadown, Co Armagh.

There have also been lesspowers which the Government er disputes in a number of intends to give to a parades other areas, typically where loyalist marchers have attempted to go through districts which were once predominantly Protestant but which over the years have become Catholic.

The cumulative effect has by common consent been highly damaging to community relations. This led the last Tory government to commission a detailed report on the marches issue and in its wake to establish the Parades Commission. This body was howev-

er given no real powers.

The RUC has for years asked to be relieved of some of its decision-making powers on the grounds that these have placed the force in no-win positions. The commission will take some of the weight off the force, though the legislation will provide police with a reserve power "to take whatever steps are necessary on the day to preserve public order".

The Secretary of State will retain the power to ban parades, either individually or on a blanket basis. This means in effect the responsibility for parades will be solit three ways between the Government, the police and the Parades Com-

als a guarded welcome, but most Unionist and loyalist organisations went on the attack. The Orange Order described the legislation as draconian, claiming it had been heavily influenced by the Irish government. It added: "There mission. is nothing in this legislation for The wife of the Northern Ireus and we reject totally the thinking that allows our faith, tradition, and culture to be treated with such contempt."

The Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party described the commission as contemptible, claiming: "This is about eroding Protestant culture." The Ulster Unionist Party leader, David Trimble, ex-

ing he was sceptical whether the commission could establish any credibility. He added: "Frankly don't think they are capable Sinn Fein gave the propos- of discharging the function

they had been given." The strength of Unionist reaction to the proposed legislation, if it is maintained at this initial level, raised questions over whether marchers will accept the authority of the Com-

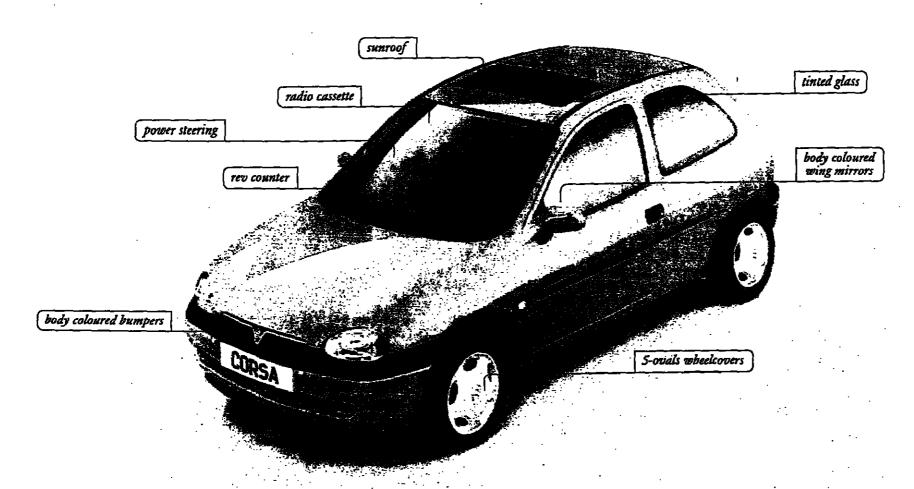
land peace talks chairman, Senator George Mitchell, has given birth to a baby boy at a hospital in New York City. The man in charge of the talks flew back from Belfast to be at the side of his wife Heather, 37, when their son Andrew MacLachian weighted in at 7lb 14oz.

Senator Mitchell, 64, has a daughter by his first marriage.



Loyalists parading down Belfast's Ormeau Road

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THE CORSA BREEZE FROM VAUXHALL

Whitehall press chiefs defy 'purge'

More government press officers could be moved or retired early in the 'purge' to modernise the Whitehall information machine. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, discovers that some of the victims have formed a 'Tumbril Club'.

The Whitehall veterans who are being "culled" in the drive to sharpen up the presentation of the Government's message are keeping a sense of humour about the bloodletting.

The "Tumbril Club" has been formed by some of the victims as a mark of defiance at the brutal way they feel they are being treated. Rumours were circulating in Whitehall yesterday that at least two more heads could roll. One of the people thought to be under threat said: "I am happy where I am. and I am staying." But that may not be the final word.

John Redwood, a Shadow Cabinet spokesman, accused the Government of attempting to replace information officers with "puppets who dance to the tune of new Labour secrecy." The unions representing the

civil servants do not accept that

charge, and have signalled their

press officers work with civil servants on policy development. However, suspicions were

readiness to respond to the

need for improvements in pre-

senting government announce-

ments, including seeing some

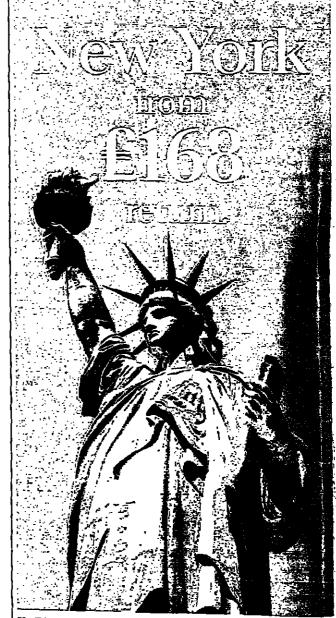
raised about a "purge" after the axe fell on Whitehall press chiefs who clashed with their ministers, while others appeared to jump before they were pushed But Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, is determined to keep up the pace of change, which could produce more members for the "Tumbril Club".

Women members are being offered a scarf and men offered ties with the club's own motif - "a guillotine rampant" and a tumbril, like the cart used in the French revolution to take away the bourgeoisie for beheading. Andy Wood, one of its members, said: "We thought it would be a nice idea. We might have a Christmas Party as well."

Labou

in Pais

Seven heads of the Government Information Service have qualified by resigning, being moved, or offered early retirement, Mr Wood, director of information at the Northern Lepermanent secretary to be told that there was a "lack of chemistry" with Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State. Since then, he has been on what Whitehall insiders call "gardening leave".



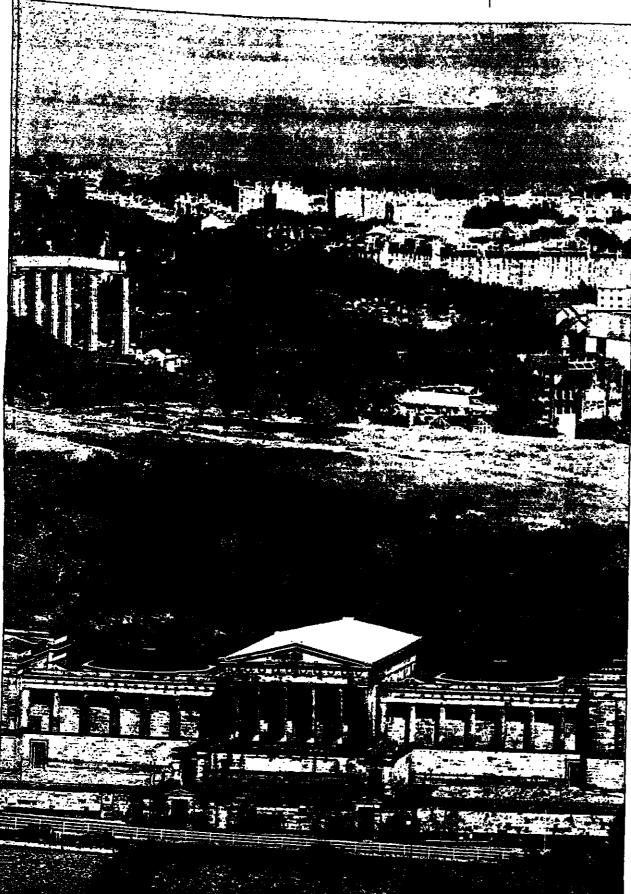
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avoured site: Donald Dewar is under mounting public pressure to choose Calton Hill

Photographs: Colin McPerson

Scotland's dilemma over site for new parliament

Choosing a site for Scotland's first Parliament for 300 years is taking longer than planned. Two feasibility studies announced by Donald Dewar yesterday have put back any decision until probably the New Year. Stephen Goodwin looks at the dilemma confronting the Scottish Secretary.

The lesson of the National Monument on Edinburgh's Calton Hill will not be lost on Donald Dewar as he agonises over the best location for Scotland's home rule Parliament.

Conceived as a memorial to he dead of the Napoleonic wars the monument is also a warning to those who embark on grandless: projects they cannot afford to complete. William Henry Playfair based his design on the Parthenon in Athens. Building began in 1822, but then the money ran out, leaving a more "distressed" reproduction than the great architect intended.

Cost and a desire not to tarnish Scotland's new politics with extravagance seem to have been the factors uppermost in Mr Dewar's mind. "We don't need a building like Kublai Khan's pleasure dome," he said last week. It was said the Secretary of State favoured a site beyond the city limits at Leith docks, next to the new Scottish Office headquarters. It would be the equivalent of transferring the House of Commons to Docklands, but at least on a brownfield site the dangers of a cost-overrun would be lessened.

However, public pressure appears to be pushing Mr Dewar towards Calton Hill, an upthrust of volcanie rock rich in national symbolism at the heart of the capital. Yesterday as he ordered further work on site



Flying the flags: Scottish Office mandarins want Parliament located next to their HQ at Leith

selection Mr Dewar said his mind remained open.

"Choosing a site for Parliament - and the kind of building it will occupy - is a tremendously important decision for Scotland. We must make the right choice," he said. A decision had been expected next week but the two design feasibility studies and traffic and environmental statements called for by Mr Dewar will

mean considerable delay. Three sites are in the frame: Leith docks, proposed by Forth Ports, owners of the land, with a £30m scheme; a gap site at Haymarket, west of the city centre, with a £26m glass Parliament; and Calton Hill, with a complex spread across the former Royal High School and the old civil service headquarters, St Andrew's House.

For decades it was taken for granted that the 19th-century school on Calton Hill's southern flank would become the seat of devolved government. The vigil for a Scottish Parliament was camped outside the school gates for 1,980 days until the successful referendum vote. And over the past 20 years

some £6m of public money has been spent adapting the building and holding it in readiness. But in July it emerged that

Mr Dewar was concerned about the cost of settling on Calton Hill and was looking elsewhere. Though the school's horseshoe debating chamber could accommodate the 129 MSPs. there was not enough room for the public, press and 200 staff. None the less, Calton Hill re-

mains the choice of the Edinburgh establishment. EDL a development and investment company owned by the city council, wants to turn the hill and the surrounding area into a government quarter. The company maintains the sprawling site could be developed within the £40m limit set by ministers.

EDI and Forth Ports both made final submissions to Mr Dewar yesterday, shortly before his announcement. City councillors are pressing their case on two fronts; the Scottish people would "expect their parliament to be in a location they can be proud of" and ease of access by public transport. It is reckoned 75 per cent of staff would use bus or train to get to either Calton Hill or Haymarket, but about the same percentage would commute by car if the Parliament goes to Leith.

Apart from Forth Ports, the only people said to favour Leith are Scottish Office civil servants. The Parliament would be next door to their headquarters and form part of a massive "Ocean Terminal" development with cruise liners would berth alongside. Mr Dewar has also bowed to demands from the Scottish National Party and the Liberal Democrats for consultation over the site. "Co-operation served the nation well at the recent referendum," he said.

Forth Ports and the developers behind the Haymarket, Kantel and MacDonald Orr, say their parliaments could be ready by the 1999 deadline. But architects and professionals within the Scottish Office are sceptical. Would-be MSPs can prepare themselves for a peripatetic early life. They could be using the Royal High School, the city council chambers or even Parliament Hall, seat of the legislature dissolved by the Act of Union in 1707 and now part

Labour braced for a dirty fight in Paisley South campaign

The Paisley South by-election began yesterday with a battle for the high ground over unemployment. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, predicts it will not be long before the dirt starts flying.

An aide to Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, vesterday launched Labour's campaign to retain its seat in the Paisley South byelection by promoting a positive message about the Government's welfare-to-work

Douglas Alexander, a 30year-old lawyer who has acted as a speech writer to Mr Brown, is fighting the seat on the Government's record, and party sources said their by-election strategy was to fight on the issues.

But Labour Party strategists arelalso prepared for a dirty fight in the by-election which caused by the death of

suicide note accusing a fellow Labour MP, Tommy Graham - since suspended pending an inquiry - of running a smear

Mr Alexander made a pre-emptive strike to stop the other parties turning the byelection campaign into a public inquiry into allegations of corruption in the Labour Party in Scotland. On the eye of launching his campaign, he said he would accept no bad behaviour in the party, and gave his total backing to the National Executive Committee which had suspended councillors in Glasgow in an-

Alistair Darling, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who was in Paisley South to support Mr Alexander, said Labour's the two inquiries in Glasgow

Gordon McMaster, who left a Government's record and what can be done for Paislev South," he told party workers. A party source said: "I

know there will be efforts by campaign against him. the other parties to keep it on alleged sleaze but the problem they will have is that it has all been written up before. There will come a point when people will start asking them what are they going to do about the issues. There is no more to be written on the 'filth' allegations. It is the subject of internal inquiries which are going on. We are going to fight on the issues." However, William Hague,

the Tory leader, made it clear at his party's conference last other inquiry into "sleaze". week in Blackpool that they will be seeking to turn the tables on Labour by campaigning against "Labour sleaze" in campaign could not ignore local government. The Tories are expected to use the by-elecand Renfrewshire which are tion to raise the suspension of going on while the by-election leading Labour councillors in on 6 November is being Glasgow over allegations that fought. "We will address it as they accepted free foreign much as we see fit, but we shall trips at the ratepayers' exfight this by-election on the pense in return for their votes. centre of Edinburgh.

substantiated allegations of organised crime links with the Labour Party in Paisley. The Labour MP for the neighbouring Paisley North seat, Irene Adams, a close friend of Mr McMaster, has waged a war against drug dealers and has received death threats.

The Scottish National Party will be launching its campaign next week, and Labour is not being complacent about holding the seat, in which Mr McMaster had a majority of 12,750 at the general election, with a swing of 3.9 per cent from the SNP to Labour.

Meanwhile, Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scotland, said he was delaying a decision on the site for the new Scottish Parliament

He has faced intense lobbying on behalf of three locations, but he denied the delay means he is bowing to public pressure in favour of it being built at the rear of St Andrew's House, the Scottish Office building at Calton Hill in the

pressure yesterday to prepare

for membership of the single

currency from Yves-Thibault

de Silguy, the EU commission-

er for economic and financial

matters. He said; "It is the re-

to have the UK in the euro as

ment and Parliament.

soon as possible."

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Blair, Kohl to discuss single currency

Tony Blair will meet the Ger- the single currency. The Govnan Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, Clequers on Monday for rivale talks which are exected to centre on Britain's ntry into the single Euroean currency.

The Prime Minister's office esterday underlined the sentivis of the talks following reent speculation about the nession of Britain's memberhip of the single currency by re-using to confirm the agenda for

Downing Street said it was mikely that Chancellor Kohl would repeat the trip he made with John Major to a local pub outside Chequers, strengthening the impression that the two leaders will be concentrating on

there have been reports that the Prime Minister is expected to make it clear before the end of the year that while Britain cannot make the first wave in 1999, sibly by 2002.

Those reports may have been inspired by the Treasury, and Mr Kohl may want to establish whether Mr Blair is as enthusiastic for entry as the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, if the conditions are right.

The decision of the Buudesbank to raise interest rates showed German determination to make sure the single currency the negotiations surrounding is not as "soft" as feared.

Mr Blair may be seeking to ernment has insisted there has test the water with Mr Kohl been no change of policy, but over how far Britain can maintain its influence within the EU while remaining outside the single currency for its first few

Whitehall sources have told it expects to join soon after, pos- The Independent that the Government is anxious to ensure it. does not lose influence after ruiing out membership in the first

The Prime Minister is also expected to seek Chancellor Kohl's support for Britain's plans to use the six-month EU presidency, starting in January, to complete the single market and press its own plans for greater labour flexibility throughout Europe.

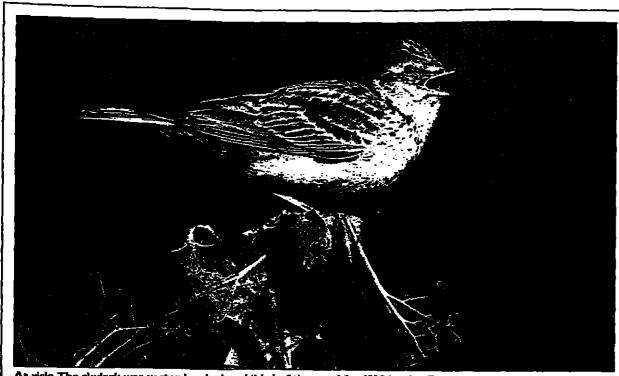
Britain came under further Correspondent

However, Tory frontbencher and leading Euro-sceptic John Redwood said joining the project would be "dangerous" andhe urged the Prime Minister to "wake up and offer some leadership for a change" instead of just "pathetically" following the

- Colin Brown, Chief Political

European Commission.

14/EUROPEAN NEWS



At risk: The skylark was yesterday declared 'bird of the year' for 1998 by the German conservation organisation Nabu. The group is publicising its concern over the endangered bird's declining stock Photograph: Nabu/Reuters

EU pleads with Blair for quick thinking on the euro

yesterday from Brussels to join the European single currency as soon as possible. Rupert Comwell says such demands are likely to increase as the year-end deadline for countries to announce their intentions draws nearer.

The latest entreaties came from the admittedly biased source of Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the EU commissioner for economic and financial affairs, who argued Europe would benefit from early British membership. The decision lay with the British government and parliament, he declared, "but it would be good for Europe if all member states are included".

Mr de Silguy's sentiments will be repeated by the leaders of Germany and Fin-

Britain came under fresh pressure land, both near-certain first wave Euro members, when they meet Tony Blair on Monday. Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in informal talks at Chequers early in day, and Mr Paavo Lipponnen later at Downing Street, will be treated to the official line, that British entry in the first wave remains "very unlikely," but not - so far at least categorically ruled out. Unofficially however, hints have been multiplying that the UK wants to join soon after the January 1999 launch.

Politically, the main difficulty remains that of convincing a sceptical public of the euro's merits. A poll carlier this month found 61 per cent of Britons opposed to scrapping the pound; defeat in a promised referendum before the next election would be a crushing blow for Mr Blair.

In economic terms, the principal objection is that Euro membership could see the contagion of high unemployment in Germany and France spread across the

Channel - an argument vehemently:peated yesterday by John Redwood, ie shadow President of the Board of Trade d fervent Tory Euro-sceptic. But Mr de lguy insisted European economies were pring up and the euro would make this better rather than worse. The single crency, he declared, would be "good for e

conomy, for investment and for growt'. Meanwhile Wim Duisenberg, the 1ropean Monetary Institute president w likely to be the first head of the Europe Currency Board, the future Europea central bank, said that countries wo choose not to join in the January 1999 staup "would be expected" to adhere ERM-2, the revised exchange rate mec anism that would link the euro with the cu rencies of non-member EU countries. B after the humiliating exit of sterling fro the original ERM in September 199 even this limited new linking of the pour raises hackles in London.

Eta bombs Bilbao in advance of royal visit

Security was tightened in Bilbao yesterday after Basque separatists detonated explosives outside an office building a day before Spain's king and queen were due in the northern city to open the modernistic Guggenheim museum.

No one was injured in the blast, which did little damage to the apparent target - an employment office in the city centre. Eta (Basque Homeland and Freedom) guerrillas warned of the attack in a call to the radical nationalist Egin radio station, which in turn contacted police. On Monday this week Eta guerrillas shot and fatally wounded a policeman as he tried to question two men unloading flower pots from a suspicious van parked near the highprofile museum. The Guggenheim still plans to open on schedule despite the policeman's death and King Juan Carlos will still attend the inaugural ceremonies.

France at odds over work

Socialists defended French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's plan to cut France's work week to 35 hours after President Jacques Chirac criticised the proposal, and a poll said that less than half the French support it.

At the close of a jobs conference last week, Mr Jospin said he intended to introduce the 35-hour work week by 2000 as a way to create new jobs and reduce the country's high unemployment rate. Many French employers oppose the plan, which they say would increase costs and would not deliver on promises to reduce the 12.5 per cent jobless rate. During a visit to the central city of Clermont-Ferrand on Thursday, Mr Chirac said it could not be imposed by law and needed to be negotiated.

Priest takes charge in Norway

Kjell Magne Bondevik, a teetotaller and ordained priest, took charge of Norway's first centrist government for quarter of a century with an appeal to opposition parties to co-operate responsibly with his three-party minority coalition. The coa has taken over after seven years of Labour rule has just 42 seats in the 165-member parliament. Its first major task will be pushing next year's budget through the legislature.

Albania remembers dictator

An Albanian village resurrected a statue of Enver Hoxha to mark the anniversary of the late communist dictator's birth, an Albanian newspaper reported.

The Gazeta Shqiptare daily said residents of Labinot Mal. 40 miles east of Tirana, put the 10-foot statue back up on its original site on Thursday, the date of what would have been Hoxha's 89th birthday. Hoxha, who died in 1985, kept the Balkan country isolated for decades under hardline Communist rule which came to an end in late-1990. Scores of Albanians paid homage at Hoxha's grave in Tirana's public cemetery, where his body was reburied after being exhumed from a hero's tomb in 1992.

France opens up its secret past

Pressure mounted for the full truth about France's recent past yesterday after the government announced it would open its secret archives on the hushedup 1961 massacre of more than 200 Algerians in Paris.

Anti-racist groups. Jewish students and a police union welcomed the decision by France's Culture Minister. Catherine Trautmann, to lift the 60-year secrecy rule after accused Nazi collaborator Maurice Papon insisted police under his orders did not kill the Algerians and dump their bodies in the Seine.

Historians say Mr Papon. Paris police chief from 1958 to 1967, protected police who went on a rampage exactly 36 vears ago vesterday, slaughtering Algerians protesting against a curfew he had imposed on them after rebels had killed several officers.

France's jump from examining its wartime past - the focus of Mr Papon's trial on charges of helping send Jews to Nazi death camps - to demanding the truth about the 1961 massacre showed the explosive nature of events that the political establishment long thought had been safely swept under the carpet.

The government pledged

last month to open wartime archives soon to shed more light on French collaboration in the Holocaust, "These archives and documents are open to researchers and that will permit us to know the circumstances under which these events oc-

curred." Ms Trautmann soid. Mr Papon said the bloodbath, which in the official version caused only three deaths was caused by rival groups within Algeria's rebel National Liberation Front (FLN).

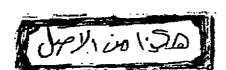
The Interior Minister, Jean-Pierre Chevenement, said he would help search for the truth and hinted that the archives contained useful material.

Ms Trautmann said she did not know what was in the archives, but said the "exceptional character" of the issue had prompted the decision to open the files to researchers.

She announced she would also draft a law to shorten some of the periods for which official papers remain secret.

Raoul Letard, who as a young policeman took part in the killings, contributed to the revision of the official version in an interview with L'Express magazine on Thursday which flativ contradicted Mr Papon's





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13/GENUCIDE



Armenian dead laid out in a mass grave, in a photograph taken by a man Red Cross officer

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Holocaust that Israel would rather ignore

The Israelis are preparing to withdraw the name of their next proposed ambassador to Turkey. His fault is that he believes in the genocide of the Armenians. Patrick Cockbum in Jerusalem asks if Israel is ignoring obvious parallels between the Holocaust and the slaughter of the Armenians in the First World War to further its foreign policy goals.

In the next few weeks, Israel is expected to withdraw the name of Professor Ehud Toledano as its nominee to be Israel's next ambassador to Turkey. The Turkish government will not accept him because 15 years ago he appeared on an Israeli army radio programme about the Armenian genocide of 1915.

The Turkish government's position is that, contrary to the evidence of survivors, diplomats and missionaries present at the time, there was no genocide. It categorically denies one million Armenians died in massacres or on forced marches organised by the Turkish authorities of the day. The very fact that Professor Toledano, a specialist in Turkish studies, appeared on a programme entitled The Armenian Genocide is enough to disbar him from representing Israel in Ankara.

ing only after Washington and Moscow. But, according to the Jerusalem weekly Kolha'ir, which carried out an investigation into the affair, there was no objection in the Israeli cabinet on 8 June when David Levy, the Foreign Minister, first put forward the name of Ehud Toledano, a professor of Ottoman history at Tel Aviv University, to be Israel's next ambassador to Turkey.

Turkish consent to the new appointment should have been automatic. But in August it became clear that there was a problem. There was no official announcement, but at the end of the month the state-owned Turkish news agency, citing sources in the Turkish Foreign ministry, said difficulties had arisen. It said "in 1981 Toledano accused Turkey of carrying out massacres during the First World War". An Israeli Foreign Ministry official, who went to Ankara to find out what was happening over the appointment, reported back that "Turkish ` opposition is adamant".

Bizarrely, Professor Toledano had appeared on an Israeli army radio programme on the Armenian genocide in 1981, but to defend the Turkish position. He was called in at the last minute because the Turkish embassy in Tel Aviv refused to send a representative. He says he gave the Turkish version of what happened in 1915 without offering his own opinion.

Professor Toledano has given a series of interviews to the Turkish press, seeking to per-



Turkish soldiers posing with a pile of five slaughtered Armenians' heads

If Turks deny the genocide ever happened, for Armenians it is at the centre of their historic memory, the great slaughter in which one-third of all Armenians in the world were wiped out Israel has a more ambivalent position. Israel has a political and military alliance with Turkey which the government does not want to endanger by drawing parallels between the Jewish Holocaust and the genocide of the Ar-

For Dr Yair Auron, a specialist in the Armenian genocide, this is unacceptable. He says that by meekly looking for another nominee to replace Professor Toledano, Israel is transforming the genocide "into an open issue subject to negotiation". He compares, hypothetically, what has happened over the Toledano appointment to a European state which had appointed an ambassador to Germany and the Germans rejected it "claiming that 30 years ago he mentioned on the radio that Nazi Germany carried out a holocaust of the Jews".

DAMAGES HEALTH

Israel does have a lot at stake. In recent years, its alliance with Turkey, which has a common border with Iran, Iraq and Syria, all Israel's enemies, has become very close. This week General Amon Lipkin-Shahak, the Israeli chief of staff, paid an official visit to buy Israeli Merkava 111 tanks. It also wants Turkey to adopt the Galil as its main assault rifle. Joint Israel-Turkey-US naval manoeuvres are scheduled for January. Ankara is now the third most important capital for Israel's diplomacy, com-

suade them of his pro-Turkish views. He says he "never expressed a pro-Armenian position in international conferences", adding that he is primarily an expert on the Ottoman empire from 16th to the 19th centuries. "I never researched or investigated the period of the First World War," he said. "I never questioned the Turkish version of events."

Professor Toledano is reported to believe that his academic colleagues at Tel Aviv university belped to sabotage his candidacy by suggesting to the Turks that he holds pro-Armenian views.

The Foreign Ministry may also be able to see a silver lining in the affair, in that the new Israeli ambassador is now likely to be a professional diplomat and not an academic friendly with David Levy.

But the overall issue is more

important than diplomatic or academic intrigue. Yair Auron, a professor at the Kibbutzim college in Tel Aviv, says that a survey he conducted of 800 students at eight Israeli universities and colleges showed that "most of them said they knew nothing about the genocide of the Armenians or gypsies". Israel's Education Ministry is resisting pressure to treat the genocide more fully in the schools' curriculum.

Dr Auron says: "I accept the uniqueness of the Holocaust, Turkey to persuade the army to but what happened to the Armenians was not a tragedy or a massacre but genocide. The Turkish government does not accept this. Not to admit there was a genocide is parallel to not admitting there was a Holocaust. Morally they are the same."

America on security alert as Marines sell weapons

Since the end of the Cold War, US officials have warned of the dangers of rogue weapons sales by desperate members of the former Soviet armed forces. Mary Dejevsky szys the arrest of six US marines in North Carolina this week shows that the problem is not unique to the defunct armies of the Eastern Bloc.

It was an elaborate sting operation conceived by the FBI over a period of 18 months and mounted in just 48 hours this

Four marines were arrested at their base, Camp Lejeune, in North Carolina on Thursday; a fifth was arrested nearby and

the sixth at a camp near Boston where he had recently been transferred. Seven civilians were also arrested in North Carolina and an eighth is being

Among the weapons the FBI said it had seized were rifles, rocket launchers and anti-personnel mines, along with quantities of explosives.

Precise numbers were not disclosed but the charges give some idea of the seriousness of the crimes. The 13 people arrested have been accused not only with violations of the federal firearms laws, but also with the illegal manufacture and distribution of machine-guns, rifles and plastic explosives. Crates of ammunition were said to have been recovered from the house of one of the

The FBI agent in charge of field operations in North Carolina, William Perry, said the

operation, codenamed Longfuse, had centred on the "theft and subsequent distribution of government, especially military, property and ordnance throughout the south-eastern United States". Two of the civilians arrested were described as weapons dealers.

Two aspects of the case will be especially worrying to the authorities. The marines are the élite corps of the US armed forces, a source of great national pride and the last place where anyone would look for a clandestine arms-selling operation. Second, as the FBI revealed yesterday, the probable destinations of at least some of the weapons were unofficial right-wing militia groups, such as the one which was involved in the siege at Waco in Texas three years ago.

These groups tend to be small, disparate and based for the most part in remote rural ar-

eas. As the siege at Waco showed, however, they have considerable arsenals at their disposal. Officials said that there was no evidence to suggest that the weapons in this week's case had been stolen for anything other than financial gain.

Reflecting the gravity of the theft, William Cohen, the Defense Secretary, yesterday ordered a nationwide security alert at military bases and arsenals across the US.

His response suggested that a radical reassessment of the danger had taken place since the previous day. Then he had defended the existing state of security, saying "very strong security measures" were already in place to prevent the theft of military weapons and explosives, and that he would wait to learn details of the current case before deciding whether security needed to be



Flames of anger: Left-wingers in Buenos Aires burning the American flag on the first day of President Bill Clinton's Photograph: Reuters visit to Argentina. Police used tear gas after demonstrators also burned banks

Tests of 'superior' Aids vaccine open

American researchers said yesterday they were starting tests of a new vaccine against the Aids virus in people and said this one was far superior to earlier failed efforts.

Julia Hurwitz and Karen Slobod of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, said the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had given them the go-ahead to start safety trials in human volunteers. They said their vaccine, which uses part of the protein coating of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), was meant to protect healthy people against infection and not to help those already infected.

"The whole point of the vaccine is to alert the immune system against a pathogen that may appear in the future." Hurwitz said. "If we can wake them up by showing them the shape of a foreign agent before it comes along, then they can block that

They said they would be recruiting between nine and 18 healthy volunteers for the Phase I clinical trial, which focuses on safety alone and not on whether the vac-

The St Jude vaccine uses outer protein layers known as envelopes from 23 different mutations of HIV, each contained in a

"Our concern is that HIV is a master of disguises. One HIV may have an envelope that looks like a circle. Another may one that looks like a square, another like a triangle and so on." Ms Hurwitz

Che buried at scene of his best battle

Thirty years and eight days after his death, Ernesto "Che" Guevara was buried yesterday on the island where he made his revolutionary name. The remains of "Che," an Argentinian doctor whose life was changed by a chance 1955 meeting with Fidel Castro in Mexico City, were finally laid to rest in a mausoleum in the central Cuban city of Santa Clara, site of his best-known battle.

His remains had lain in the Bolivian jungle since he was executed by Bolivian troops on 9 October 1967. He had gone there in the hope of spreading Marxist revolution throughout South America. The location of his body remained a mystery until two years ago when a retired Bolivian officer revealed the area to an American journalist.

Hundreds of thousands of Cubans filed past his casket in Havana for three days last week, before it was moved to Santa Clara. It was there Guevara's revolutionary unit defeated Fulgencio Batista's troops in the last few days of 1958, forcing the dictator to flee the country on New Year's day 1959.

Guevara, who was 39 when he died, has several children and grandchildren living in Cuba. His widow, Aleida March, was among the mourners. Even as he was being buried, Cuba and the US continued their war of words. A US State Department spokesman accused Cuba of playing "the same old movies", while the Washington Post said the revolutionary was "not a mythical Marxist Robin Hood but someone who did much damage.

Yemen kidnappers demand jobs as ransom

Yemeni tribesmen holding a British man hostage are demanding more jobs and utility projects from the government in exchange for his release, an official source said yesterday.

"The kidnappers' demands are water and electricity projects in their area in addition to more jobs for their sons in the armed and security forces," the source said. "This is nothing but blackmail of the government."

The British man, who worked for a Japanese development agency, was kidnapped on Wednesday by tribesmen

near Ans, about 60 miles south. of the capital Sanaa.

On Thursday, four French tourists were released unharmed after being abducted the previous day by tribesmen in a separate incident in the north of the country, Yemeni officials said.

North Koreans seize farmers

North Korean border guards abducted two South Korean farmers yesterday inside the demilitarized zone that separates the two Koreas, the United Nations Command said.

The command said 12 armed North Korean soldiers crossed into the southern half of the buffer zone, seized the two in a rice field and took them back to the northern side. It called the abduction an apparent armistice violation. "The South Korean gov-

erament strongly demands that the North return the South Korean citizens immediately and safely," Defence Ministry spokesman Kang June-kwon The incident took place in

what is known as the joint security area near the border village of Panmunjom. The area is under the control of the UN command.

The command said a battalion of primarily US troops had been put on alert in the area and a senior member of the UN Military Armistice Commission was trying to contact North Korean offi-

The command said there had been no exchange of fire.

Congo's victorious rebels go on looting spree

The rebels victorious in Congo's civil war went on a looting spree in the capital Brazzaville and authorities clamped a night cur; few on the oil port of Pointe Noire.

Former Marxist ruler Denis Sassou Nguesso has proclaimed victory in his militia's bloody four-month power struggle with forces backing President Pascal Lissouba. The UN Security Council on Thursday told foreign forces to get out of the country in a statement aimed at Angolan troops fighting alongside Sassou's.

Indonesia's smog returns

Choking smog caused by forest fires in Indonesia returned to several cities in the country, and one Sumatran town reported zero visibility. Government officials said visibility in several cities on Sumatra island and Kalimantan, the Indonesian side of Borneo island, was between 100 metres and 500 metres and more fires were reported on the two islands.

People in Padang, west Sumatra, said the city was "dark" because of the fires. Parts of the capital Jakarta were shrouded by thick haze on Friday, but the official said this was the result of pollutants rather than smoke from the forest fires.

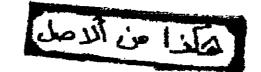
Japan's boy killer sentenced

The family court convicted a 15-year-old boy of beheading a younger boy and sentenced him indefinitely to a juvenile prison where he will be treated for mental illness.

The boy, whose name has been withheld under Japan's juvenile law, also was convicted of other assaults on four younger girls, one of whom died. The murder and decapitation of 11-year-old Jun Hase has shocked Japan, where violent crimes are still relatively rare.

Hase's mutilated head was found outside the front gate of a school on 27 May with a note stuffed in its mouth calling police-





Ghosts of the Raj that doomed a royal visit

The Royal visit to India did not go well. That is partly because Britain, to its surprise, is not universally liked or respected in India. Our correspondent isn't surprised.

My day spent on the royal flight in the company of the Duke of Edinburgh was economical (free, in fact) and comfortable (warm scones, clotted cream and jam. Fortnum and Mason's Earl Grey), but yield-'ad none of the nuggets which, down the years, has turned Prince Philip into a sort of cargo cult among journalists.

During the whole day he lobbed only one remark in my direction. It was after our visit to a large Hindu temple in Gujarat where children dressed as peacocks danced for him and the reedy notes of a shehanai warbled. "Have you seen the one in Neasden?" he called back into our compartment of the plane. It's exactly the same, only bigger "

The Queen, her consort and her secretary of state have had a horrid week in India. Diplomatically it has achieved nothing. The newspapers have overflowed with joyful chippiness. The atonement at

BY PETER POPHAM

Amritsar was torpedoed by the inevitable Philip gaffe. The Indian prime minister chose to greet the royal party with the observation that Britain was a "third-rate power". The Queen's first speech went down so well that the second one was apparently banned by the Indian government at the last minute. On his way home (the local papers were glad to report). Mr Cook was seen off by the humblest available officials, to make sure he got the message.

Mr Cook dismisses it all now as a "storm in a teacup" but at a reception on Monday he was not taking it so well: as he lambasted a young woman journalist for not checking her facts before reporting his insecretions, he was clearly incandescent

with frustration. The large, vague hope that he might be able to work some New Labour, Ulster-style magic over Kashmir has blown up in his face: in the run-up to the Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh. Britain's relations with the biggest member of that organisation are suddenly worse than at any time since Thatcher.

The trouble is, the British are not really much liked in these parts, particularly when we behave as if independence changed nothing. Yes, there is an extraordinary intimacy between our countries: English culture has penetrated so deeply into the mentality of educated Indians, become so woven into the fabric of their litarature and psychology and cities and Solities, that disentangling it is out of the respect. It cannot be presumed upon. The of the trip, for the streets were limed with question. England is in their blood. And degree of closeness makes the relationship we in Britain are sentimental about that not easier but more difficult, for there are who had no choice in the matter). But it



played in the building of the Indian nation, as if it were something disinterested, like the rearing of a child, instead of a bloody and long-drawn-out struggle for freedom.

So the intimacy is like that between a violent husband and his wife, where the wife has escaped and regained her self-

raise your voice or your fist it's a disaster. And the pompous ritual of a royal tour, so redolent of the old relationship and the old enactments of domination, makes it all

The visit to Amritsar epitomised the problems. Superficially it was the high point

things right. Their trip to Jallianwala Bagh, the park in the city where hundreds of unarmed demonstrators were killed by British gunfire in April 1919, was insultingly perfunctory. Then while walking round the park, the Duke remarked to the local dignitary escorting him that he had served in the Royal Navy with the son of Brigadierpeople (the great majority schoolchildren General Dyer, the commanding officer responsible for the massacre, who believed fact, cloyingly nostalgic about the role we many things that cannot be said, and if you showed how hard it is for the royals to get the figure of 2,000 deaths engraved on the between the Sikh "nation" and the central dia would be a democratically elected one.

wall of the park was "vastly exaggerated". Most historians would probably agree. But there could hardly be a more inappropriate time and place in which to pass on this information.

At the Golden Temple, the Sikh religion's holy of holies, their reception was ecstatic, and it was not too hard to work ceedings unfold, it became clear that the out why: they were being used as pawns in only British head of state who could hope the long-running, bitter and bloody game to get a genuinely warm reception in In-

Make-believe glory: The Queen amid a host of costumed film extras, being shown around MGR film studios at Chennai (formerly Madras) by the actor/director Kamal Hassan Photograph: John Stillwell/PA

government. Of all India's disaffected minorities, the militant Sikhs have been the most violent, desperate and threatening to the integrity of the state. In 1973, Sikhs adopted a resolution declaring that their position within the Indian Union "denudes the Sikhs of their political identity ... thus liquidating the Sikhs politically and exposing them to spiritual death and cultural decay". These discontents grew into a movement to fight for an independent state, Khalistan: the resulting conflict with the armed forces led to the bombardment of the Golden Temple in 1984, the assassination of Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards, the lynching of thousands of innocent Sikhs in Delhi, and the brutal suppression of the secessionists in Punjab.

It was into these waters that Elizabeth waded, becoming the first head of state to visit the Golden Temple, where she and the Duke were loaded with expensive gifts. If it was done merely to please the Sikhs of Birmingham and Southall, it was unbelievably parochial, But it certainly infuriated the Indian government, who had tried to get the Queen to cancel this trip.

What have such ceremonial visits got to do with Robin Cook's attempts to put leverage on the Indian government over human rights abuses in Kashmir? The Indian instinct is to see in both of them the old British urge to divide and rule. India's divisions were always the key to British success in India, from the first deal cut by the East India Company onwards. For centuries we didn't need to divide and rule: India was divided, therefore we ruled. But as the nationalist movement gained strength, the imperialists argued that India's divisions were ineradicable, that India could never be a real nation.

It was Gandhi's triumph to prove them wrong. But partition almost proved them right again, and fairly or not, Britain is still blamed for it. Today the Union remains a very fragile entity. So when Britain is perceived to offer succour to secessionists, whether in Kashmir or in "Khalistan", very old wounds are opened.

A British monarch in India is in an impossible position. Either she must go around the country on her knees, apologising for everything; or she must ceremonially open cupboard after cupboard and watch the skeletons clatter out. If Tony Blair imagined that recruiting the monarchy to his policy goals was going to be easy, the Indian tour will have provided a useful reality check.

Most of the arguments for abolishing the British monarchy focus on the feelings of British people about the institution. But the feelings of non-British people come into it, too. Watching this week's sorry pro-

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Who's to blame for the **Kashmir controversy?**

The Queen yesterday took the unusual step of defending Robin Cook against reports a rift between Buckingham Palace and the Foreign Office over her trip to India. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says Mr Cook is blaming the Tories but Labour had a long-standing policy on Kashmir.

Buckingham Palace yesterday sought to quell the controversy over the Queen's troubled tour of India by saying she was "entirely satisfied" with Foreign Secretary's handling of it. Mr Cook fanned the polit-

ical row by claiming that John Major's Tory government was to blame for the timing of the visit, which coincided with the 50th anniversary of independence for India. "It might have been helpful if they had arranged this trip at some moment other than the 50th anniversary so that we could have focused on looking forward to the exciting relationship between India and Britain into the 21st century," Mr Cook said on BBC radio.

"That is where we want to anchor our future relations with India, as two equal, independent countries with mutual respect for each other and very strong mutually beneficial

to suggest that Britain would offer its "good offices" if requested to assist India and Pakistan in a solution over the dispute territory of Kashmir. Mr Cook yesterday defend-

versy was readiness of the For-

eign Secretary in private talks

ed his private remarks, arguing that to have refused to discuss Kashmir with Pakistan's Prime Minister would have been seen as a snub to Pakistan: "We had a successful discussion and I wasn't going to snub the Prime Minister of Pakistan any more than I was going to snub the Prime Minister of India." But Labour has had a long-

standing policy of offering help over Kashmir. The Road to the Manifesto document said: "Labour in Government would he well-placed to help find a solution to the conflict in Kashmir - a solution that is acceptable to all the peoples of the region: Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists." Sources close



At the heart of the contro- over offer of 'good offices'

to Mr Cook said: "John Major said when he was there in January the British government's good offices could be utilised to assist in the matter. It is nothing terribly exciting."

A senior Tory source said Mr Cook had run into trouble because he had failed to recognise the difference between actively offering "good offices" and waiting to be asked to provide them. "If we are asked, we were ready but we didn't seek them out. What has upset people is that Robin Cook seemed to be saying, 'Here we are ...' As with all diplomacy, it is a question of tone and nuance. He got it wrong," said the source.

A Downing Street spokesman yesterday made it clear there would be no attempt to revive the offer at the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Britain next

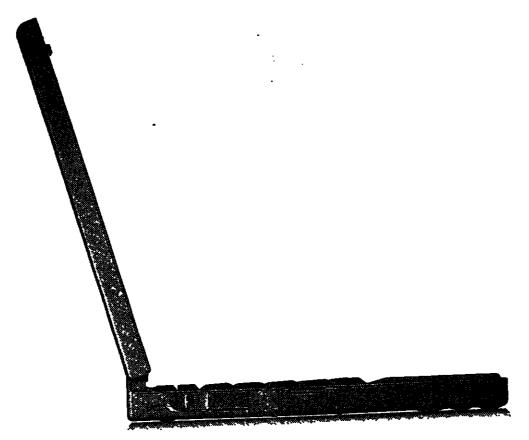
Yesterday, the Palace distanced itself from any criticism. It said: "We have seen media reports from London suggesting that the Queen is unhappy with the Government's handling of arrangements for the State visit to India ... That is not the case. The Queen has been entirely satisfied with the advice from the Foreign Secretary and his officials in the preparations leading up to the visit and during the visit itself."

Mr Cook said the Palace statement proved there was no rift with the Foreign Office. "But if you're saying Her Majesty can be browbeaten into making such a statement, . you are underestimating Her Majesty," he said.



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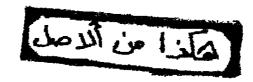
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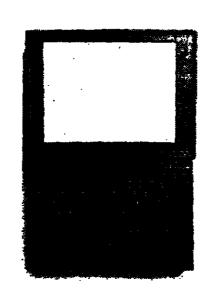


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Supermac: Tory lord of misrule

A brace of new plays has brought two of the Tory Party's finest hours to the West End stage

In A Lener of Resignation, there's a tremendous insistence on the general splendidness of John Profumo and his family. Fine, fine man; lovely, lovely wife: great, great shame. All perfectly true, but it can't help sounding as if Hugh Whitemore's play is trying to salve its own slightly uneasy conscience about dragging up the Profumo affair yet again.

The Profumos have been through scandal, they've been through the movie Scandal, and they've been the subject of innumerable post mortems conducted by people who will be some way behind them in the queue at the pearly gates.

No, I am not suggesting that it isn't

BY PAUL **TAYLOR**

perfectly legitimate to write a play like A Letter of Resignation, but I do think it a bit rich of Whitemore (scriptwriter of C4's current adaptation of Anthony Powell's A Dance to the Music of Time) to have said in this newspaper that he hoped John Profumo would come to see it and soak up "the sympathy and understanding" with which he's treated.

This is doubly disingenuous. For it's only by raking up the marital misery of Harold Macmillan, long-term cuckold of the Kray-fancying Bob Boothby, that Whitemore manages to put in a word for Profumo, the disgraced Minister of War in Macmillan's 1963 Conservative government. The idea is that Macmillan could have helped Profumo by confronting him directly but couldn't face this because of the personal bad memories the affair triggered.

I think it most unlikely, however, that 35 years from now the West End will be playing host to a drama about, say, the Tory Party and the arms-to-Iraq scandal. Why? Because, unlike this, that story does not have the twin pullers: class and sex, nobs and their knobs, So.4 Letter isn't perhaps quite as principled as it imagines.



Edward Fox as MacMillan: a star turn as a bemused but gruffly gracious Edwardian grandee

ing informed of Profumo's resignation by an MI5 emissary while on a shooting holiday up in Scotland. Not trusting the audience to know much of the

The play shows us Macmillan be- thorough briefing session you feel that doing his moving turn as the gruffly at any moment someone will remind gracious Edwardian grandee passing. the PM exactly which party he's leading. All pained honour and quavering like some weakened walrus, Edward background, it starts off with such a Fox does a moving turn as Macmillan

with a kind of wise bemusement.

through the second major upheaval of English values in his lifetime.

dotage (people who like stories about Diana Cooper and "Sligger" Urquhart et al will be in seventh heaven), some speculation about MI5 being caught with its knickers down over the Russian spy Ivanov, and a painful memoryflashback to the day when Macmillan's

tocratic brusqueness by Clare Higgins) told him she was pregnant by Boothby. In many of the best plays about politics, you're made to feel that a private flaw has sealed the public's fate. But here, despite some dark references to Macmillan's dominating mother and to his bouts of depression, you don't really sense that events were necessitated by something at the core of Macmillan's nature. Hence the play is elegiac without being truly tragic. And, as was the case with Stephen Churchett's recent play about Clement Attlee and Tom Driberg, people are simplified in

order to stand for principles.

wife Dorothy (played with a bouncy aris-

The last honourable resignation from a Tory cabinet was perhaps that of Lord Carrington over the Falklands. That conflict is the setting for Faith, Meredith Oakes's new play at the Royal Court. It kicks off from a great idea. Imagine that you'd decided to get away from it all by decamping to a remote desert island; then, lo and behold, a Blue Peter team descend on the place to film some eco-friendly holiday footage. If you think that scenario is bad, put yourself in the skin-tight jeans of Sandra (Elizabeth Chadwick): a jumped-up racist little madam from Brixton, where she hated the "war" and the "wogs", she and her family think they have found peace in Falklands exile. Try telling that to the Argies, let alone the British Army.

It's an intriguing perspective but Oakes fails to follow it through. When the Brits capture an American mercenary, the play lapses into an inert and unprovocative edition of The Moral Maze on the ethics of what is worth fighting for and whose orders one should obey. At the centre, there's an unravelling, conscience-stricken Sergeant (Howard Ward), who seems more like the kind of chap you'd run into on a weekend creative writing course than on a battlefield. You sit through most of John Burgess's uncompelling staging with a sigh of resignation. 'Letter of Resignation': Comedy Theatre,

Panton St. London SWI (0171-369) 1731). 'Faith': Royal Court (Ambassadors), West St, WC2 (0171-565 5000)

THE WEEK ON RADIO ROBERT HANKS

Truly temperamental

Balanchine Mixed Bill Birmingham Royal Ballet, Birmingham Hippadrome

In their pursuit of that protected species known as the Ballet Audience, many directors have headed for the safe cover of well-loved tales. Not David Bintley.

Last week he opened Birmingham Royal Ballet's autumn season at the Hippodrome with the everyday tale of a homosexual king and his x-rated death. On Thursday his company staged revivals of three one-act works by George Balanchine with the help of Karin von Aroldingen. Nilas Martins and Victoria Simon of the Balanchine Trust. Neither programme is easy to sell to the family-treat contingent but both should appeal to any theatregoer in search of interesting new work or who would like to catch up on timeless classics of 20th-century dance.

Serenade was Balanchine's first American work and was developed from the class in stage technique he gave to his first students at the School of American Ballet in 1934. Each section was devised with whatever number of dancers turned up to the class and the choreographer deliberately retained something of that fresh, improvisatory feeling in the finished ballet. Birmingham have had the work in their repertoire since 1994 and they now look quite at home in it. The corps de ballet form the serried ranks of the opening andante with the natural geometry of a carbon molecule. Among the soloists in Serenade was the splendid Joseph

Cipolla, who also danced the lead in Orpheus. This 1948 work was conceived as a companion piece for Balanchine's earlier Apollo and is a triumph of artistic collaboration that unites the specially-commissioned Stravinsky score with the weird and wonderful designs of sculptor Isamu Noguchi (who had worked successfully with Martha Graham since 1935). Noguchi's worm-infested unitards for the Furics sprout fat ropes of fabric that erupt from the dancers' bodies and flick around them, tracing extra arcs of movement. Swayed by Orpheus's lament, the Furies huddle at the back of the stage and flutter unnervingly like a giant anemone. Cipolla's angst-wracked body keens with the Stravinsky score as he mourns his dead wife, the music coaxed from him by Andrew Murphy's Dark Angel. Murphy was recruited from Australian Ballet last year and, although his Steve McGarrett quiff and long sideburns are a bit Alvin Stardust for the ballet stage, he's proving a very useful addition to the side. His Piers Gaveston last week was hugely admired and on Thursday he looked well in both Orpheus and in the "Phlegmatic" variation in The Four Temperaments.

The latter formed the evening's finale. Created in 1946, the ballet uses a score that Balanchine commissioned from Paul Hindemith with 500 of the dollars he had earned in Hollywood. The architectural divisions of space and the almost modular simplicity of the steps, which are taken apart and reassembled in endless permutations, made the work a choreographic landmark. David Justin's Melancholy is particularly successful in conveying the quality of inert weight that characterises this variation. He allows gravity to drag his shoulders forward to the earth or to pull his spine back into a tight arch before he lunges forward like a runner breasting a tape. David Bintley may not be running with the pack but if ne continues his brave and exciting programming policy he deserves to win in the long run. Birmingham Hippodrome today (mat & eve), booking, 0121-622 7486; then touring to Sunderland, Bradford and Bristol

Louise Levene

THE WEEK IN REVIEW DAVID BENEDICT

THE FILM

Oscar

Stephen Fry stars as the world's most famous aesthete and homosexual in Brian Gilbert's film with a screenplay by Julian Mitchell from Richard Ellman's definitive biography. With Jude Law as Bosie.

Cert 15. 116 mins, on general release.

Adam Mars-Jones noted that "Wilde would be nothing without Stephen Fry ... handsomely mounted but timidly filmed". "A star turn for everyone but the star ... trots through the usual staging posts," allowed the FT. This Wilde is about as dangerous a social subversive as Pam Ayres," barked the Mail. "Achieves what is, in the circumstances, the most paradoxical of states: respectability," worried The Guardian. "Far from a bad film, but it is certainly a missed opportunity," sighed The Times, "Law as Bosie is perfect ... This fine film," endorsed the Telegraph. "I blubbed more or less continually through the first half," admitted the New Statesman. "Every scene is permeated with an intelligent insight into sex and society ... For once a worthwhile use of Lottery cash," pontificated the Standard.

Best Supporting Actor awards all round in a safe, unadven-

THE PREMIERE Standing Stone

Paul McCartney's classical odyssey contin-

ues with a 75-minute symphonic poem to his own text of primal chaos and redemption based on Celtic roots. Lawrence Foster conducted the LSO and chorus. Studio recording on EMI.

Rob Cowan found the best "simple, direct and selectively orchestrated, but most of the bigger guins misfire". "Pretty thin stuff. But then something rather lovely happens: melody ... given the chance to score major films, McCartney might net Oscars," observed the *Telegraph*. "Ranges from the crudely Celtic to the Radio 2 Lloyd Webberish and is often embarrassingly slow-moving and empty of interest. 200 voices in the LSO Chorus sing 'Aaaah' for two-and-a-half movements," snorted the Standard. "The musical equivalent of a veggie burger." scoffed The Times. "Clearly superior to many of the symphonic works by well-established figures in the 'classical', or as Mc-Cartney rightly prefers to say, 'serious' repertoire, for instance several of Shostakovich's works," trumpeted the Mail.

Thanks to Richard Rodney Bennett, John Harle, et al for structure, orchestration...

THE BALLET Edward II

Birmingham Royal Ballet dance David Bintley's ballet based on Marlowe's play. Wolfgang Stollwitzer is Edward, Andrew Murphy is Gaveston, music is by John McCabe. costurnes by Couran and lighting by Peter Mumford. On tour. Call 0121-622 2555 for details.

Louise Levene thrilled to "testosterone-rich ensembles worthy of the Bolshoi ... a strong tale, told with conviction, danced with passion and staged with the greatest possible style". "Bintley resists the temptation to get too graphic in so bloody a story, although when he does use blunt statement – the redhot poker, for instance - the effect is arresting. He also sets up a resonant contrast between the tenderness of Edward's love for Gaveston and the brutality of the other relationships," applauded The Times. "He has an unerring sense of theatre ... borrid but gripping, and grippingly well done," approved the FT. "Bold Bintley is vindicated. Edward 11 is a triumph, a ballet drama of sweeping and chilling scale that showers credit on everyone involved ... I can't wait to see it again,' sang the Telegraph.

Not suitable for children but a must for everyone else.

A perfect but slender talent for the petty

There was a baffling sentence in one newspaper profile of Chris Evans last week - something about how people who call him a genius wonder why he doesn't do something more "substantial". Is anybody, you wonder, really that stupid - not stupid enough to call Evans a genius (how else do you describe his wit and unerring populism?), but stupid enough to think that he's remotely capable of anything substantial? Evans's talent, slender but perfect, is for the petty and the pointless. For him to attempt to apply it to something "substantial" would be about as sensible as a master of the three-minute pop melody trying to write an hour-long symphonic poem. Evans is, above all, a big kid, and what delights us is the childish pleasure he takes in his own importance. It's that streak of childishness which makes it hard to be outraged by his excesses. If Jim Davidson, say, asked a woman colleague to fax him a photo of her breasts, it would be revoltingly sexist; with Evans, you merely feel as you would with a 14-year-old: it's very naughty but --

well, boys will be boys. Children are not always attractive, of course, especially when they have been spoilt. Earlier this week, Evans turned over large chunks of his new breakfast show on Virgin to griping at Matthew Bannister and

Radio 1, and it wasn't pretty - the term isn't part of conventional critical vocabulary, I know, but the appropriate response to this brattish exhibition is surely "Diddums".

The critical vocabulary proves even less useful when one tries to pin down something like Evans's "Dr Bongo" feature, in which listeners - mostly women - call in to be cheered up, and are subjected to a stream of mild suggestiveness ("I can make you happy, baby") in a cod Caribbean accent; this is followed by a short burst of bongo-playing. There's no doubt that the joke exploits some unpleasant prejudices, but I don't think it panders to them: the humour lies in the listener's embarrassment, and in Evans's evident satisfaction in creating it. On this week's showing. Evans needs to work on the smugness and the distressing tendency to take himself too seriously. But if you're asking, "Is he still a genius?" the answer is "Oh. yes, I think so."

Over on the much-matigned Radio 1. Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball are rather less: less characterful, less compelling, but also less solipsistic, less off-putting. So far, Ball is the dominant partner - Greening. who's always had a shy, even monkish side, seems to withdraw in the face of her assertive "bubbliness". A little more of his irony would be nice, but the blend is still

surprisingly effective, and better attuned to a traditional Radio 1 breakfast audience than Mark and Lard were.

Mark and Lard, meanwhile, have shifted over to the afternoons, occupying the space vacated by Nicky Campbell. He in turn has taken over The Magazine on Radio 5 Live (Monday to Friday), where he has been displaying a mixture of sententiousness, plodding demagoguery and sycophancy. Things reached their nadir vesterday morning with a phone-in on the subject of banning paedophiles from parks and public places. Campbell's strategy, it's clear, is to act as the people's tribune - in other words, to figure out the most popular point of view and stick to it. The effect is to confine debate to the most primitive tabloid responses. At one point yesterday Campbell rounded on the lone libertarian he had in the studio and demanded: "Do you have children?" No. she admitted. Uhhuh, said Nicky and passed on: evidently convinced he'd scored a significant point.

There was no serious discussion of civil liberties, or of the impracticality of enforcing any exclusion laws; and calls demanding public torture of paedophiles were treated as serious contributions to the debate. Campbell is out of his depth; and, frankly. I wouldn't toss him a lifebelt.

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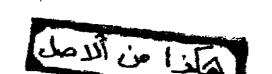


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Where's the shame in a bathtime cuddle?

A judge is shocked when he hears that a mother's boyfriend has been seen naked by her children, and awards custody to the father. Another judge overturns his decision. So who was more in tune with modern parenting? Angela Neustatter believes that we do better to help children to love their bodies.

Was Lady Justice Butler-Sloss right when earlier this week she returned the nine-year-old son and six-year-old daughter to a mother who had allowed her fiancé to walk around the house naked and to bath with her children? Or had the "shocked" Judge James Wigmore, who she over-ruled, only been doing what we expect of him in these troubled times and protecting the children from a potentially risky situation when he gave custody to the father, in June, after hearing of the fiance's behaviour (even though he said very clearly that there was no suggestion of abuse)?

These are difficult questions at a time when, day after day, we hear yet another chilling story of paedophilia and child abuse. And when research done by Kidscape, the child protection agency, based on interviews with 91 paedophiles shows us that a very high percentage, and this includes natural parents as well as outsiders, will build up trusting and loving relationships and propitious opportunities in order to

But it is important that we stop and think about whether nakedness and the cosy intimacy of sharing a bath with children in a family situation is necessarily the sign of a depraved family. Certainly if it

were my brother and I who, when children, had been the subject of a custody hearing, we would have been whisked into care - for our psychiatrist father regularly wandered from hedroom to bathroom without clothing. He did it absentmindedly, or because he couldn't be bothered to put anything on for so short a journey, rather than in any spirit of display. And now my partner and I have likewise been unworried by our sons seeing us au nature. if they come into our bedroom or bathroom. I'm sure there is a Polaroid photo lurking somewhere of them in the bath with their father.

I know that in both these instances, as in the households of many of my friends, that the nakedness, the sharing of unclad body contact in games, cuddles and showers, has been just one dimension of an easy intimacy that extends into all areas of life. It has also been an important way of helping children to feel at ease with their bodies. These days, we do not have to be, as Bernard Shaw bemoaned: "Ashamed of everything that is real about us ... ashamed of our naked skins."

This is not a small consideration, as Peter Wilson, director of the Young Minds children's mental health charity agrees, in a country such as Britain where we have a frankly perverse attitude to nakedness. We seem to have no problem with Page Three girls and rather more hirid representations of men and women clad in what Marshall McLuhan called "sexual flags" (ciothes that make the genitals conspicuous and often eroticised, while purporting to disguise them). Nor are we unduly bothered by the kind of sensual nudity or semi-nakeoness that gets on to our television and cinema screens with little trouble. Yet we whisk a streaker at Wimbledon into custody quick as a flash. And, we all remember the almighty hoo-



Au naturel: François Boucher's 'Venus and Cupid', 1754, in the Wallace Collection, London

Photograph: Bridgeman Art Library

hah when photos of news reader Julia Somerville's children, photographed in the bath

by her fiance, were discovered.

Of course, there are exhibitionists who reveal themselves to children because they get a kick out of doing so; and they frighten children in a way that cannot be tolerated. And equally there are people who photograph children in seemingly innocent domestic situations and then stoke paedophile fantasies with the resulting pictures. But as Gaby Shenton at Kidscape says, it is important that we find a way to protect children and enable them to resist paedophile advances without wrecking healthy innocence, fun and intimacy within families. She points out, too, that there is a great difference between a parent or step-parent who goes out of their way to display their nakedness before children and persons like my father, for whom

What Peter Wilson calls the "new puritanism" was already well entrenched in the days of my father's naked cavortings. My dad used to tell of a psychiatric colleague who, know-

nakedness is simply not a

ing nothing of our domestic situation, once observed to my father that he was treating a family where the father was clearly mentally unstable, because "he goes round the house in the nude". This is a puri-

tanism that stems from the wretched feeling that we can trust no-one and nothing. If we allow our children to think that a member of the family who is allowed to appear naked

'In my family, sharing of unclad body contact in games, cuddles and showers has been one aspect of an easy intimacy that extends into all areas of life'

in front of our them will see it as invitation to abuse them. then we are effectively telling try of when and how abuse our children that naked bodies ite wiln ganger. I di very sinister message.

The cunning of the determined paedophile is not predicated on being allowed to appear naked before children. nor is there any evidence that

gaining as good an understanding as anyone in the counaren to their mother this week, she must surely feel very con-

this familiarity predisposes a

person to abuse. In fact, persons

who want to abuse children will

find a way to do so, even if they

have to wear a head-to-toe

boiler suit every time they are

derstands these distinctions it

is surely Justice Butler-Sloss,

who adjudicated at the Cleve-

land sex abuse inquiry and

hear ream so evidence. If after

If there is anyone who un-

seen around the home.

But there are other issues besides the fear of abuse that are raised in considering the idea of adult nakedness before

fident in doing so.

children. Firstly, it is important that what we do should be appropriate; and that the children should feel comfortable with it. Small children who have always known nakedness may well be unconcerned; but then as they reach puberty, they may suddenly find it uncomfortable or distasteful. I remember, once I reached adolescence, that I avoided walking around the landing whenever my father appeared in his natural state. And after my sons' hormones went into orbit, they had no hesitation in telling me, and their father, that they didn't care to see our privates on display. Fair enough. In just about every psychology book I have read, it is stated that children discovering their own sexuality do not want to know about that of their parents - at that stage naked bodies do represent the potentially erotic. We both invested in

dressing gowns. Nor is it unreasonable if a child does object where a new partner is brought into the family and parades around starkers. If children feel uncomfortable with someone who feels strange to them naked, or sharing a bath with them, then surely their feelings must be re-

spected. But whether this respect is given or not will depend a good deal on the attitudes and sensitivity of their parents. A situation in which children might be subject to a succession of naked partners is obviously very different to that in which a person planning to be a permanent part of their family, and to share caring for them, is naked.

The central dilemma of our time with regard to child sexual abuse is how to protect our children from predators whose presence does seem to constitute a real risk. The only way to do this, it seems to me, is to encourage our children to feel able to act on their instincts and to protest at anything and everything that feels uncomfortable to them. If we encourage them to tell us how they feel, no matter how difficult that is; and if we listen to things that may sound absurd or overstated to us as adults, and take that seriously, we will find a way to make them sater.

·The child who knows if they will be taken seriously if they tell us a new "mummy" or "daddy" is popping up everywhere with no clothes on, and is touching them, urging them into the

bath, and wanting to be alone with them, can then feel safe and comfortable with the way of life they share with us. But if we pooh-pooh what they say: laugh and tell them they've got it wrong, or turn away and refuse to hear because it is too uncomfortable for us, then we will certainly put them at risk. In Scandinavia and Holland, nakedness is everywhere - on beaches, in mixed showers and saunas and certainly in families with all kinds of permutations. And child sex abuse is no higher in those countries than here.

We must shift the balance away from fear of being able to show, in an innocent and natural way, what we are, what we were when born - naked beings. Bodies, even imperfect ones like mine, are comforting. cuddly, amusing things, they should not be seen as our dirty secrets, something children are taught to be ashamed of. I cringe when I hear parents on beaches, while urging diminutive kids into even more diminutive swimming costumes, telling them it's not right to be seen naked. We do better to belo them to love their bodies, to value them and to

Courage, martyrdom, sanctity, youth - and renunciation of a profligate past

Nineteenth-century Europeans loved a sentimentalist, and Thérèse of Lisieux, dying of tuberculosis in a nunnery at 24 after having written a popular autobiography, suited the times. But why is the Catholic church preparing new honours for her, asks Richard North, who argues that candidates for public canonisation, from Che Guevara to Bob Marley, have much in common.

On 30 September 1897, an obscure young nun died. Thérèse Martin was a Carmelite, living in her strictly enclosed order in Lisieux, a provincial city in northern France. She was 24 and had succumbed to tuberculosis. That might have been that a frequent occurence among people of that time, a family sadness, but only a small blow to a community devoted in any case to preparing people for the afterlife. But Thérèse was something else. She had always intened to be a saint. Her image was soon in a thousand breast pockets in the trenches. It sustained sweaty missionaries all over the tropics. In 1925 she was canonised. A hundred years on, she will be made a Doctor of the Church tomorrow, in St Peter's. Henceforth, her dicta are to be considered of a quality with those of St Thomas Aquinas and the other builders of Catholic doctrine.

How come? Therèse became famous for a rather sickly faith: she called herself a "little flower of Jesus", and thought of herself as a plaything of Christ in addition to the normal nun's thought that she was a bride of Christ. Like an anorexic, she sometimes seems someone resisting adulthood. Her self-abnegation at times seems probably wrongly - like an insult to the aspirations of the rest of her gender. Still, if she was sentimental, it was a sentimental age. If we struggle to see her merit, her generation might have struggled to see that of the late Princess of Wales, who has become so admired in death.

We cannot afford to be too superior. A hundred years later our appetite for such dead heroes does not diminish with the waning of conventional faith. And while we are perhaps more cynical than our forebears, we seem to be at least as - perhaps more - credulous. The young like a romantic hero, perhaps to keep alive the belief that however hundrum their own lives, there remain people who combine talent and drama. The old, no less than previous generations, are in need of gaining cousolation from the idea that there are people who personify goodness.

So "the people" will go on making - or rather, proposing - saints. Mother Teresa of Calcutta may have been an erratic ·administrator, as is rumoured, but unless something much worse turns up about her, she is likely to remain admired. Hindus in Calcutta are already venerating her (along with Princess Diana) and in time the Church will presumably decide whether she can be endorsed as truly holy. The non-religious also make saints.

Though they have fewer rules to go by and sexual morality and personal denial are much less of an issue, the same types emerge. Che Guevara died thirty years ago, and for twenty years he was a vivid icon of revolutionary and military fervour. The comparison is necessarily imperfect, but for those students who put up the poster with his beret-ed head, Che was a sort of Joan of Arc, the 15th century French freedom fighter and visionary who had to wait 500 years for canonisation. The image of Che on a T-shirt is, by the way, strikingly similar to medieval portrayals of Christ's face imprinted on the white cloth which Veronica passed to him for comfort on the way to Calvary, and which was imprinted with his countenance. Not, of course, that Christ advocated violent revolution.

Che was a guerilla, and executed by his captors: this makes him, like Joan, a candidate for the label of "martyr". He had often prefigured such an event. This isn't a perequisite for sainthood, but it certainly helps. Paying the ultimate price for one's beliefs is particularly potent as an ideal in the romantic and moral hero. It is, after all, altruism taken as far as it can go, rather as a suicide pact is the ultimate test of

lovers. Saints are above all extremists. Martial heroes do not make obvious spiritual beroes, and yet their deaths - like Che's - can have elements of martyrdom about them. And they can be romantic, too. Nelson acquired something like saintliness even when he was alive, and his death provoked a violent upwelling of popular feeling. Stephen Daniels, the cultural critic, sees him as an important popular, as op-



posed to state, hero. He was a hero at arms. but like Joan of Arc manages to mean far more than, say, Churchill. He was Byronic, a lover, a self-made man, a man driven to heroism out of an attractive weakness

For a generation that has not known war, is not ideological but is not formally religious either, it is hardly surprising that Che's image on adolescent bedrooms has been replaced by that of Bob Marley. I fell under the reggae star's spell when I interviewed him, and happily propose that he was some sort of saint. His womanising and his laddishness might have counted against him, and he may have had more serious faults I know nothing of. Perhaps the kids like the spliff which is forever in his hand or lips. There is something more to it than that, though. His musical outpourings would bear comparison with St Francis' mystical but earthy Canticles, and were strikingly resonant with the Psalmody he must have Freddie Mercury (whose death inspired advirgin and visionary - to uphold.

heard in Jamaica as a child. It was songmaking of profound seriousness and great joy. That would be enough to make him worthy of attention. But there is something, too, in his apparent lack of selfregard. One guesses that charisma (which he personified) equals stardom in inverse proportion to vanity. I never believed that he took Rastafarianism all that seriously, except as a mild and decent myth and ritual which conferred dignity on a people in serious need of some. Still, he may also strike people as having a sort of devoutness about him. His songs of peace seem far less fatuous than poor John

Courage, martyrdom, sanctity, youth: no one of these things is necessary or sufficient to sainthood. But candidates need to exemplify two or three among them. And it helps, too, to have been flawed, profligate or reckless at some point. Where else lies proof of renunciation, or redemption? Leonard Cheshire, a war hero and man about town who became a devout charity worker, might make a candidate for sanctity. He used to argue that physical disability - his special care, but psychological disability must be the same - is a mark from God. It provides unique opportunities for insight in the victim and sympathy in the onlooker.

And how we fail the unfortunate, and then venerate them. Thus, Marilyo Monroe's death is iconographic because it is supposed that men, bewitched by her beauty and untempered by self-discipline, played on her flawed nature and put it, finally, into

a flat spin. The public always likes its sympathies to be tinged with shock. Wilde, Hendrix, Morrisson, Moon prove it. James Dean's death in a smashed Porsche matters because it was appropriate to our image of him that he burned out in the fast lane of life. St Francis of Assisi had been flashy: a follower of fashion to please a Versace. St Teresa of Avila remarked how violently she desired the things she wanted: like miration out of proportion even to his success in life), she could say: "I want it all and I want it now".

Seen against these criteria, Thérèse was burdened with or achieved more than enough of the requirements of sainthood, She put her signature on a sort of spirituality. At 16, and as a nervy, spoiled brat, a creature of a comfortable hourgeois home, she had bullied the church authorities into allowing her to incarcurate herself in the local convent. Refusing to ask for medication, she died a heroic and largely voluntary medieval death. But she was a determined youngster, set on sainthood. She had been prevailed upon to write an autobiography and it is not going too far to say that it was assiduously promoted by a formidable gang of her fellow re-

But The Story of a Soul, as it was called in English, belies everything a cynic might say of it. One of her most recent biographers, Monica Furlong, points rightly to the steel and the good sense which it displays. Therese, on this reading, might have outgrown the sugariness into which the chauvinist culture of her day had indoctrinated her. She might, in short, have grown more like that grander figure, Teresa of Avila who herself was a hysteric in early years and achieved greatness only after her 40s.

And even as it stands, Thérèse's legais serious. A youngish nun told me in Lisieux this summer that Thérèse's devotion to the family, and her use of the human family as a simile for the heavenly family, is all the more poignant now that we have so damaged its structures. But a doctor of the church? For at least one sepior Catholic lay figure, this seems a dumbing down too far. But then, the Catholic church endures above all because along with its authority, it never eschews the vulgar, the simplistic and the dissident if it believes these things have caught the attention of enough people of goodwill. It has, after all, the image of Jesus - victim,

3 petty

Parlez-vouz Aramaic? Welcome to the global Babel



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There may be a case for teaching dead languages to children as young as seven, if only on the First Principle of Management Consultancy, which is that any change to the working environment increases motivation. Studies have shown that it does not matter what you do to office workers - increase the lighting, lower the lighting, turn the air-conditioning up. turn it down - productivity goes up. If people feel they are the subject of an experiment or the centre of attention, they will perform better.

Thus primary-school children who choose to learn Latin in their lunch-break are bound to do better in all other subjects, improve their concentration and studies will no doubt show - be subject to lower levels of family breakdown in later life. The results, we can be absolutely sure. would be much the same if children opted to take classes in hieroglyphics, the languages of Middle Earth or the history and record of Manchester United Football Club.

Latin for under-11s, then, is a good idea. But it is not necessarily the best idea. No disrespect to the teachers of Belle Vue primary school, Stourbridge, who should be congratulated on their exciting project. but there are even better things that children could be doing.

However, the classical languages hold such a place in the British mythology of academic excellence that it is worth pausing to consider the peculiar (from L. peculium, private property, itself from pecu, cattle) claims of Latin.

There was a time when, in Europe, the ability to use Latin made someone cosmopolitan. Now, all over the world, it is the ability to use English, the closest we have to a universal language.

There was a time, more recently, when in Britain the ability to use Latin marked one out as a member of a learned community, a community that regarded itself as the extension of, and progression from. Greco-Roman civilisation. Its very uselessness in practical life emphasised its rarification, its intellectual discipline and its role as a form of communion with the past. Now, we see the classical inheritance in a more objective historical perspective, and we see education less as a project for a closed priesthood.

This leaves us a peculiar nation, embarrassed speakers of a casual, misspelt. irregular blend of old German, Norse, Celtic, French, and, of course, Latin - a language which through an extraordinary sequence of happenstances has become the lingua franca (It., Frankish tongue) of the world. We giggle about our incompetence



in other people's languages and even wish earnestly we could speak them, while knowing that almost anyone we meet in the world will speak our language better than we can speak theirs.

But the joke is not funny any more. However dominant English becomes, and it is already the language of the Internet and of the European single currency (in which, paradoxically, the UK will not initially take part), to carry on as bumbling linguistic amateurs is both insular and lazy. Surely any attempt to modernise Britain requires a serious attempt to become an outward-looking, cosmopolitan nation, which must include fluency in live European languages?

The official approach is right as far as it goes: a modern language is part of the national curriculum for older children. But the overwhelming emphasis on French. which dates from 1914 (when the teaching of German was suddenly abandoned, for obvious reasons), is a terrible drag on the system. Compared to the disbenefits of compulsory French, voluntary Latin is a great boon.

But the answer, surely, is to expand the choices of modern European languages available to children. A particularly strong case can be made for Spanish. Recent research suggests that pupils make more rapid progress in Spanish than in other languages, and that knowledge of Spanish - like that of Latin - greatly enhances the capacity to read other European languages. Spanish is also, more than French, an international language.

Another strong case can be made for German, a logical language of tedious grammatical regularity which ought to appeal to traditionalists who believe that fearning Latin "trains the mind" and instils a strong grasp of grammar. Besides. German is, more than French, the second language of the European Union, especially along its expanding frontier in central and eastern Europe.

Equally, there are arguments for Russian, another highly systematic language with the added intellectual challenge of Cyrillic script for those for whom mere difficulty is a measure of worth. But it is time to let pupils and their parents choose which languages to learn, which is hound to mean French taking its rightful place lower down the rankings.

At least we have a Prime Minister who is both fluent in French and European in outlook who can lead such an adventure with the spirit and attack it needs. It may require some tinkering with the national curriculum - why should Latin or Greek (or Cornish, Aramaic or ancient Hebrew, for that matter) not be acceptable options within a languages strand biased in favour of modern European languages in general, rather than French in particular? But what we Anglophones must do above all is shake off our strange inferiority-superiority complex and plunge into the global Babel with gusto.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Green Belt housing

Sir: Although Nicholas Schoon is correct in saying that the Government is expecting local planning authorities to make provision for 4.4 million new households by 2016 ("Historic challenge to the nation's Green Belt", 16 October), he neglects to point out that this expansion will be heavily concentrated in the South-east.

The Government needs to consider just how realistic it is to continue to expect local planning authorities like Hertfordshire to cater for this level of growth within the confines of existing planning policy.

It is obviously important that adequate land for new housing is allocated, otherwise prices in some areas will rise ple will be forced to continue and more people will find themselves homeless.

In the absence of a coherent national response to this problem, authorities like Hertfordshire are bound to make the best effort they can within the existing framework.

The Royal Town Planning Institute favours a "sequential test" for new housing. This, along with appropriate tax incentives, would force housebuilders to give priority to brownfield sites within existing built-up areas.

Even with such a policy, the reality is that at least half of new housing will have to be on non-urban sites. A range of solutions, including town and village expansion and New Towns will be required. While Green Belts still have validity, in many areas their boundaries could be modified to provide useful development land, especially in places where there are good public transport links.

Society as a whole has to cope with the reality of more marriage breakdowns, people living longer and more young people wishing to live by themselves. Town planners and local planning authorities must be realistic in their allocation of sites and Green Belts can no longer be sacrosanci. TREVOR ROBERTS Senior Vice President Royal Town Planning Institute

London W1

Sir: Your article (16 October) on new housing development and the future of the Green Belt was timely in drawing attention to the difficult planning decisions involved. We would like to emphasise four points about the situation in Hertfordshire you mention.

First, the Hertfordshire Structure Plan is in line with regional planning policy set by the previous government. The county council has to provide its allotted share of overall housing provision in the Southeast -65,000 more homes in the county during the period 1991 to 2011.

Second, the main development strategy in Hertfordshire is "planned regeneration" of towns - providing as many more homes as possible within existing built-up areas. We would like to provide all 65,000 by regeneration but we do not believe this is feasible. Third, our choice of west of

Stevenage as the location for housing was a key issue at the public inquiry. The panel upheld the county council's reasons for choosing this location. West of Stevenage is in the Green Belt but, crucially in its favour, it is also close to town centre facilities, job opportunities and excellent public transport links.

Fourth, only 3,600 new homes will be built west of Stevenage by 2011. How many more will be built here, and on Green Belt land elsewhere in Hertfordshire, will depend on central government, which is dramatically, more young peo- preparing new regional planning guidance.

Council is making it clear to the Government what the consequences for the Green Belt will be if its housing allocation is in-

JOHN METCALF Leader of Hertfordshire County Council CHRIS WHITE Deputy Leader of Henfordshire County Council

Parliamentary reform

Sir: Fran Abrams (report, 16 October) is too gloomy in her assessment of House Magazine's survey of new MPs and their likely attitudes towards reforming the House of Commons. Reform, if it is going to

happen, will be led from the top, not by the new recruits. The Government has shown remarkable zeal in setting about modernising Parliament. They set up the Select Committee on Modernisation which was appointed on 4 June and 49 days later produced, under the leadership of Ann Taylor, the Leader of the House, a unanimous report running to 102 paragraphs detailing a comprehensive programme of reform of the procedures of the

Perhaps the conformist tendencies shown among the new MPs are due to their previous involvement with the system: the House Magazine report also revealed that 20 per cent of them had worked in public policy jobs before entering Parliament. The newcomers will show their radical tendencies or not through their responses to what their established colleagues produce by way of reform, not by what they do themselves. So far the signs are promising.

DAVID TENCH Amersham, Buckinghamshire

Sir: Your leading article ("The Lords do not need reform they need abolition", 16 October) doesn't tell us what you want a second chamber to do. Is it to hold the Commons in check? Then of course an elected body would be just the job. But if all you want is intelligent



Green Belt land: town planners may be forced to build on non-urban sites in future

and knowledgeable scrutiny of yet another health-threatening legislation, then perhaps it isn't such a good idea to bestow on the second chamber the power that comes from being democratically elected. London W3

Kangaroo meat Sir: Neil Blewett, the Australian High Commissioner. is incorrect in his assertion that there has been a dramatic increase in the kangaroo population (Letters, 11 October). The Australian government's own figures from aerial surveys showed in 1996 the lowest population for 11 years, yet the highest commercial kill on record (5.2 million) occurred in that same year.

Mr Blewett maintains that the "cull is carried out by professional shooters who are licensed and must comply with strict laws". However, a licensed kangaroo shooter receives only two days' instruction on hygiene, with no training

whatsoever in marksmanship. Nor can the processing of kangaroo meat be compared with the processing of meat in abattoirs, since the slaughtered kangaroos are gutted at the killing site without supervision. Furthermore, there are documented cases in Australia of parasite infections as a result of consumption of kangaroo meat. Doctors raised their concern at a recent medical conference in Tasmania after the discovery of

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cocaine. Nor did I "whoop it Great British hemp up" at any point.

more for international poetry

in the last 40 years than almost

anyone else. No one in the "Es-

tablishment" has enabled so

many good new voices to be

Sir: William Hartston, at-

tempting to explain some com-

mon misconceptions about the

Sun. Earth and Moon (Weath-

er, 10 October), perpetuates

one of the oldest misunder-

standings when he says, " the

Moon . . . always keeping its

dark side. It keeps the same side

pointed towards the Earth.

That side is either illuminated

and and hence fully visible at

full moon, or completely unlit

and therefore invisible at new

moon. There are of course all

the intermediate stages in be-

tween - the phases of the

The Moon does not have a

dark side towards us".

ADAM HOROVITZ

Wobbly moon

Stroud, Gloucestershire

heard.

parasite in wallaby meat. Finally, Mr Blewett failed to What I did do was approach Ms Taylor afterwards and, bemention the additional, appalling cruelty involved in the cause I disagree with my father's stand, say: "Murray kangaroo "culi" when over a million joeys (baby kangaroos) Lachlan Young has done almost are brutally killed each year as much for poetry in the last five months as my father has when their mothers are slaughtered for meat. This figure done in the last five years, in that he has given poets a cause should be taken into account as to follow. Whatever you think part of the killing quota and as part of the grim reality of the of his verse. kangaroo industry. In truth, Michael has done

SALLY WILSON Australia/Asia Coordinator International Fund for Animal Crowborough, East Sussex

Poetic licence

Sir: Adam Horovitz really is an angry young man. This, however, is not because of some purported spat with his father ("Son gives thyme and reason . . . " 15 October). It is because he has been misrepresented by Sam Taylor.

I went to the Murray Lachlan Young/Jessica D'Este event at the Cheltenham Literature Festival with some apprehension, given all that I have read and heard about him - especially from my father, Michael Horovitz, whose opinion I respect. I was pleasantly surprised by Young's

performance. I did not cheer throughout "Simply Everyone's Taking Cocaine"; that would have been a crass response to a poem written to express the awfulness of

Moon. Incidentally, because the Moon "wobbles" a little on its axis it is possible to observe some 55 per cent of its surface from Earth throughout the

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BARRY LINTON Goring, Oxfordshire

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The final stages of the week different people prefer difpassed in a blur - partly because of a visit to Cheltenham, whose very fine literary festival The Independent has been sponsoring. Blur of train to blur of taxi, to blur of Cheltenbam-by-night, and into theatre, where I met and introduced Sir Roy Strong. who did a reading from his diaries.

He was on fine form on Thursday night, dropping alternatively kind and waspish descriptions of women he'd known in his public career, during which he virtually reinvented both the National tainly, his diaries have hugely some. enjoyable pen-portraits. Margaret Thatcher, for instance, putty", while Grey Gowrie, the former arts minister, is exactly caught: "a curious complexion as though descended from Spaniards wrecked in the Armada.

They are strange, rather touching events, these theatrical readings. In the age of the CD-Rom and the multimedia experience, there we all were in a darkened theatre, following the loops and swings of description from a single voice. Prose readings are something one still vaguely associates with Charles Dickens: but there is still a thrill about the actual physical contact with the real voice, the author-in-theflesh. As I blurred through late-night parties to bed, it seemed obscurely reassuring.

Photograph: Brian Harris

Sir. The point that many com-

mentators and the Labour Par-

ty seem to have missed in the

debate on the legalisation of

marijuana (report, 14 October:

letter, 17 October) is the histo-

ry of good old hemp and why it

was made illeged in the first place.

1920s thanks to William Ran-

dolph Hearst who wished to use

the many acres of forests that

he owned to produce paper

from wood-pulp. He had

stitched up a deal with Dupont

who had patented a process to

do so and the only thing left to

do was to put marijuana (a new

word invented for the purpos-

es of demonising cannabis)

growers out of business - hence

the Marijuana Tax. Cotton

growers were also happy to

It could be argued that

hemp was responsible for puff-

ing the "Great" into Britain. All

rope, sails and paper required

to sustain the British Empire

were made from hemp. During

the reigns of Henry VIII and

Elizabeth I it was possible to be

busted for not producing one's

tithe of hemp for the realm.

What a turn around.

Raining on Renoir

Sir: The suggestion that the

young woman in the foreground

of Renoir's Les Paraplides is un-

comfortable only because of the

attentions of the man behind

her (report, 16 October) seems

to me to overlook the obvious

cause of her discomfort; name-

ly the lack of an umbrella.

ANNE HERTZELL

Guildford, Surrey

S J GLAZZARD

Worcester

iump on the bandwagon.

Prohibition began in the

Speaking of blurs... here is a progress report for those who still have problems with the typeface: we have produced dummy pages with all sorts of minuscule variations in the size of letters and the spaces between them, and various colleagues with different strengths of eyesight are testing them out. Much squinting, grunting and rustling has produced the - I suppose unsurprising - information that

ferent versions. Increasing the size of the actual letters from, say, 8.75-point to 9-point seems the least popular solution. But we may slightly decrease the "leading" - a word from the days of hot metal printing, which simply means the gaps between letters, words and lines which has a similar effect. Also, because there is a group of commuters who want to see page numbering on the top outside-corner of pages, so they can thumb through. I'm going to put a small extra number there. I'm not going Portrait Gallery and the V&A to take every suggestion as popular institutions. Cer- offered, but I am accepting

And now, in another blur, off struck him in 1976 as being "an to somewhere I can barely apotheosis of the boss's wife, bring myself to admit to - a ith the appeal of cosmeticised health farm. So appalling has my appearance become that I am being dragged off for the first time to be swathed in seasaturnine fellow with a dark weed, forced to drink gallons of lukewarm turnip-juice, eat bowls of cosmeticised putty, and he beaten up on a regular basis by pitiless and laconic men called Sven. Or that's what I imagine a health farm to be like. It seems wrong and unnatural, cruel even; the place for hacks is in dirty bars, stuffing down bacon sandwiches and whisky. So if the health-farm people kill me off this weekend, it's goodbye, dear readers.

Meanwhile, a competition without a prize. The London Evening Standard has, hilariously, launched its own business suit - with a pink pinstripe to imitate its business pages. One can see where this sort of thing will lead: corduray suits designed by The Guardian, baseball caps for new Times readers, and moleskin waistcoats, hand-sewn by Lord Deedes and his colleagues on The Daily Telegraph. But I can't think what item of clothing we should be running up here at The Independent. All ludicrous suggestions warmly welcome.

Andrew Marr

QUOTE UNQUOTE

Only because Rembrandt didn't have his own TV show - Rolf Harris, entertainer, explaining why he was named the world's most

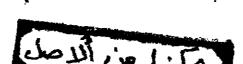
famous artist by 38 per cent of people involved in a survey The Booker Prize is about my past, not my future. I will only write another book if I have another book to write. I don't believe in professions - Arundhati Roy, winner of this year's

I always knew he wouldn't be faithful to me, but I did think he might try for the first couple of years - Lady Fairbairn, widow of former Tory MP Sir Nicholas Fairbairn. She discovered that

he had a secret son conceived in the early days of their marriage. If you can't get pissed on your own show, when can you get pissed" - Chris Evans, Virgin FM's new breakfast show host, who celebrated by drinking a can of beer before 8.10am on his first day I can't go into politics, because if I do Tim has said that he'll

divorce me - Nicola Horlick, ex-City hotshot, mother of five In my day, I would only have sex with a man if I found him extremely attractive. These days, girls seem to choose them in much the same way as they might choose to suck on a boiled sweet - Mary Wesley, 84-year-old author







AARONOVITCH ON TRUTH SEEKERS

What a funny business other people's sex lives are. Our own are, of course, pretty ordinary. They consist of fumbles, grunts, yearnings, transient passions, strangely enduring affections, awkward logistics and meal breaks. Does she want to? Is he too tired? Where shall we meet? Will the kids go to sleep before all lust has finally fled? Wouldn't it anyway be simpler - in all circumstances - to stay in and watch telly?

But - as measured by the sales of tabloid newspapers, and as recounted in their tales of broken marriages - the lives of celebrities, MPs, footballers and vicars are far richer and more urgent than ours. They cheat, rage, engage in all-night bouts of kinky lovemaking and dress up in odd clothes. Sex for them is very different from what it is for us. Apparently.

In the case of Conservative MP Piers Merchant and his "friend" Anna Cox, their sex life is so remarkable - so phenomenal - that it has justified half a dozen reporters and several photographers from the Sunday Mirror (a stepsister paper of this one) tailing them across northern England, taking snaps, talking to hoteliers, checking invoices and eavesdropping on their conversations. It is quite possible that these intrepid seekers after truth have even discovered positions and dimensions, but are content (for the time being) to keep those details to themselves.

Now, adultery clearly shocks our colleagues. From their descriptions of Mr Merchant's behaviour it becomes possible to imagine the sense of disappointment and genuine anger which attended the early editorial conferences at which the revelations were discussed. Many tabloid journalists are devout Christians, who would rather throw themselves from the top floor of Canary Wharf than sleep with young trollops, or stay out late drinking when they could be in the bosoms of their families helping Joshua and Natalie with their homework.

Even allowing for this squeamishness, however, the descriptions of the Merchant Affair suggest something very unusual.

The 12.50 from York to Newcastle, for instance, may be an ordinary diesel to you and me, with smutted windows and a loo scat that falls with an almighty bang - but to those writing about Piers and Anna it is the Love Train, its onward rush into the tunnels of North Yorkshire invested with blind, phallic vigour.

One moment Anna, "her blonde hair falling on to a tight-fitting dress which perfectly displayed her new 36DD breast implants" jumps up, "squealing with delight". And the next she is cooking a "barely edible meal of pusta in tumato ketchup on a bed of lettuce". Anna gives Piers a "smouldering look", but worries that his gift of Milk Tray will make her fat. "At Pepe's fast food bar they ordered kebab and chips," then "Merchant sat looking intently into his young lover's unlined face". The fabulous alternates with the mundane to create a picture that is at once familiar and alien.

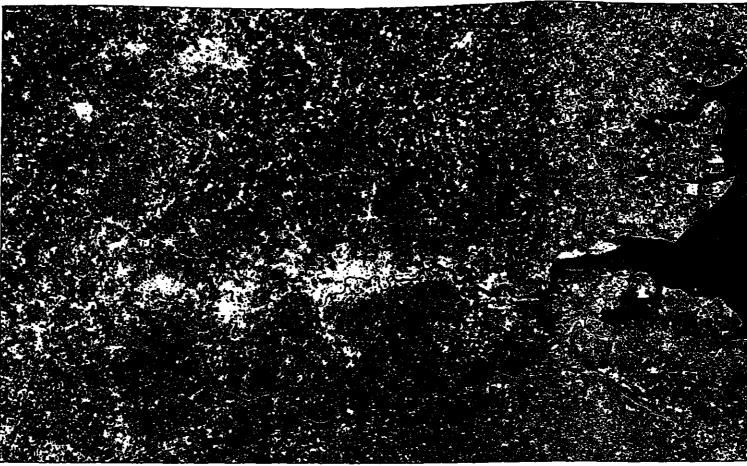
Now, I have not slept with many 17year-olds recently. Not since I was 18, in fact. But I cannot help wondering whether aspects of my life or, dear reader, of yours, might not look similarly weird were we to be followed and bugged and photographed and written about by the born-again Christians of Canary Wharf. How might the masturbators amongst us feel were our solitary acts to be described in tabloid circumlocution on page 1 of the Sunday Mirror, our faces snapped in postclimax astonishment? What about the e-mail adulterers, caught out flirting electronically? Or the tipsy chat-up artist trying it on unsuccessfully with the office beauty for the umpteenth pathetic time? Could we not find ourselves likewise the objects of ridicule - would-be cheats and sexual failures? Or just dullards?

Maybe I'm being too optimistic, but I have a suspicion that more of us now realise what kind of a game is being played here. If we dress up our natural prurience by suggesting that there is something remarkable - and simple about the Merchant adventure, or the breakup of the Hoddles' marriage, or Bill Clinton's li'l ol' man, then we can somehow justify sending poor, easily shocked journalists out to write stories about it.

But increasingly the wind is tugging at the figleaf. The Hoddles, for example, are exactly like us. Forty per cent of our marriages end in divorce too - and to us the reasons are both terribly complex and terribly ordinary. Why should we seek the reason for the separation? And how would we know it were we to discover it. when we often cannot explain ourselves to ourselves? Likewise the vanities, timidities and sadnesses that combine to govern our affairs may be presumed to govern those of others. They are no different.

So, do you have a right to know about the love lives of MPs, the marital condition of soccer managers or the penises of presidents? Only, I would suggest, if they also have the right to know about yours.

I would only make one exception to this rule. On Newsnight on Tuesday or Wednesday the Tory MP, Gerald Howarth asked Jeremy Paxman and Bridget Rowe (Sunday Mirror editor) if they had never had affairs. Paxman – rightly – did not reply. Rowe - equally rightly - did reply. She is the exception. Tabloid editors should answer.



The mayor of London will have to keep the attention of nearly everyone within the M25

Photograph: Science Photo Library

Make 'em laugh, make 'em vote

Should politicians be interesting? It has taken me some weeks to get round to the painful subject of my old friend Mr Tony Banks, the sports minister, but his very existence in Government seems to pose this question. Mr Banks seems incapable of asking for an egg sandwich without provoking controversy and hilarity. His comparison of William Hague to a foetus at the Labour Party conference was widely condemned, but in the television pictures of his speech I don't think I noticed anybody not

laughing, much less walking out. It is people like Banks who make politics interesting for the great mass of the public; people are inclined to forgive them their little peccadilloes, as long as they entertain. Contrast Mr Banks with rather more successful politicians, such as, for example, Tony Blair or Gordon Brown, both of whom it is said were advised to avoid making jokes in public in case people thought they were lightweight. Since taking power of course and, remarkably, Mr Brown has been seen to smile. Judge for yourself whether it provement,

But if the rule is that successful politicians must avoid being entertaining, Mr Blair with his plans for elected city mayors is about to pose us with a major problem. All the experience from the US and elsewhere is that the people like their directly elected politicians with flaws and weaknesses - so long as they hold their attention. In this country few politicians seem able to excite public interest without attracting the

salacious attentions of the tabloid press. From this perspective, there is no denying that in the fight for our attention, affairs of the heart win over affairs of state every time.

It gives me great pleasure then, to report an encounter with Britain's queen of ro-mance, Miss Cilla Black, in which politics came off best. Earlier this week, I recorded a programme about politics in the TV studio next to the one in which Miss Black records Blind Date. An integral part of this programme's appeal is the LEADERSHIP roaring, cheering, catcalling studio audience, which registers public emotion towards the contestants. Figuratively speaking you can hear them a mile mile away. Yet Miss Black, meeting me in the corridor was moved to enquire in the way only she can "What's going on in there, chuck?" and members of her team were, I'm told, ready to ask our audience

to keep it down a bit, please. What was going on was in it-self a kind of blind date, albeit they've cracked the odd gag a purely political one. We had persuaded four leading Londoners to imagine that they were running for Mayor; not difficult for Lord Archer and Ken Livingstone, both already well into their campaigns. At present no-one quite knows what they're campaigning to be, as the shape of the mayoralty will be decided by a referendum next May. We do know that it will be the biggest job in politics next to the PM and Chancellor; and that in its wake will follow directly-elected mayors for every major British city and large town.

Mr Blair thinks that this new



TREVOR PHILLIPS ON LEVITY IN

departure for our democracy should engage the ordinary voter's enthusiasm. There is little doubt that Londoners like the idea of new leadership for the capital. An opinion poll commissioned by LWT. The Evening Standard and KPMG, showed that they will vote by almost four to one for a new city government. Interestingly, by a massive majority, they would like the first mayor to be independent of the political parties; a desire reflected in the runaway poll victory for Richard Branson, It takes only a moment's thought to work out that Branson won't give up his business interests to enter politics. When asked what he might do were he mayor, his big idea was to grass over many of London's streets. However, the vote is an indication that London will elect someone they don't think of principally as a politician, whatever his or her party label.

The real issue now is whether mayoral contests will give our moribund local politics a shot in the arm. So we put it to the test by staging, effectively a virtual election. Our four contenders were Livingstone, Archer, the broadcaster Darcus Howe and the former City of London boss Michael Cassidy. Each made personal political broadcasts which were shown to the audience; they were then quizzed by a panel led by Max Hastings, the editor of The Evening Standard, and then they were subjected to a grilling by the public. Instead of rowing with each other, they were forced to talk directly to the people. It was a revelation. Livingstone won, narrowly, but that was unimportant. What mattered was that for over an capital. hour, the studio rocked with contention and humour. We know that Ken is witty, and that Archer is a born showstopper. But there was genuine eloquence, principally from Howe. and Cassidy's hard-nosed businessman act attracted waves of applause. This was, in a way,

interesting and revealing way. to an earlier English tradition television, where those who us by the thousand.

politics reclothed in the lan-

guage of showbusiness; to my

surprise, having cast the event

principally as theatre, it tack-

led some complex political is-

sues - the place of the political

sought to represent the people had to appear, unprotected by spin doctors, and unmediated by journalists. Yes, I know there were rotten boroughs, but there were also genuine contests. In this electronic age, it may seem strange to argue that politics should be carried out in this way. But, there is an appetite for it, where the citizen believes the debate will be more than the trotting out of party lines. We saw this spectacularly demonstrated last year in the Evening Standard debates on London, where thousands turned out to hear debates on issues as arcane as the use of green space in the

Mr Blair, who addressed one of these debates, was right to promise that he would be carrying on his live, unscripted, shirtsleeved appearances. Faceto-face democracy still has an important role that the media cannot usurp; we want to see and hear our rulers and engage with them. This is not territory that should be left to the single issue pressure groups or protesters; pressing the flesh has come to have a rather limindependent, for example, in an ited, intimate meaning for our mainstream politicians. Instead In many ways, this is a return of limiting themselves to oneto-one encounters, they need to of politics - before radio and rediscover their ability to excite

The rich and energetic take over from the rich and idle



IOHN LICHFIELD THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

It is all Mick Jagger's fault. Twenty-six years and two months ago I spent the summer, with a university friend, gardening for an elderly English woman - an ageing courtesan as it turned out - in the South of France.

She lived in a beautiful but ramshackle villa, just outside Biot, a classical Provençal, hilltop village, only a mile or two inland from the concrete and palm tree excesses of the Côte d'Azur. In those days, according to my memory, you only had to move a couple of miles from the coast to enter a different world: a world straight from the pages of Marcel Pagnol; a world of crumbling villages and tiny vineyards and cunning Provençal peasants (as yet unpatronised by Peter

Mayle). I left the village in August 1971 to hitch-hike home and have never been back. Until this week.

I feared the worst. A few years after we were there, Mick Jagger had bought a home in Biot. The village, I was warned, had become irretrievably fashionable.

Driving up the steep, spiralling road to Biot, I was encouraged at first. The old place did not seem to have changed beyond repair (although I

parks). Finding the villa where I had worked outside the village - the Mas des Lièvres (Hare Grange) - was another

.1 recalled unpaved tracks and vineyards and lavender fields and cicadas and dragonflies. Instead, there were entire estates of mock-Provençal farmhouses; there were chainlink security fences and hungrylooking dogs; there were buildozers and miniature tower-cranes, helping to prop up more villas.

The Californication of the South of France is now intense.

1 million people now spread 10 miles or more into the Alpine foothills.

> My ex-employer, I knew. had died several years ago. She was from British racing stock, and had been established in the villa in her relative youth by a Middle Eastern potentate (whose name was the first in the visitors' book). Somewhat down on her luck by 1971, she clung to the fringes of the old British tax-exiled aristocracy of the South of France. Graham Greene, who then lived

down the hill in Antibes, was

There is even talk in Paris of creating a new urban, political entity for the Côte d'Azur: a gallic Los Angeles

In the last quarter of a century, the Côte d'Azur has become a great, linear city from Cannes to Menton, indistinguishable in its shabbier stages from parts of Florida or California. There is even talk in Paris of recognising this de facto reality and creating a new urban, political entity for the Côte d'Azur. a kind of gallic Los Angeles. Taking off from Nice airport, you see that the suburbs of the didn't recall the multi-story car- coastal megalopolis of over

also in the visitors' book. Our employer promised that "Graham" would come to one of her parties. He never did. Instead we - long-haired and leftist as the times demanded - would mingle in grim delight with stiff-backed, retired admirals who insisted that Edward Heath was a Communist. Why? Because he had not abolished income

Something of this world

still exists. But it has largely been displaced by a different expatriate community on the Côte d'Azur, rich and energetic, rather than rich and idle: everyone from Ringo Start to. the most recent arrivals, the Spice Girls. Mr Jagger has long gone.

After several false starts. I gave up and put the hire car into a multi-story car-park and set out on foot. In desperation, I turned into a smart road in what looked like a suburban estate. After a half mile, the mountains up on the Italian border to the north-east began to assume a familiar pattern. Between two new villas and a miniature crane, there was a neat, concrete road and a sign: "Mas des Lièvres".

This was it. This road was the track besides which Mike and I had grumblingly worked for several days, scooping a ditch out of the rocky soil. This was the garden which our employer had filled with lawns and hedges and rosebeds, as if she still lived in Suffolk. Just watering it had occupied several hours every morning and evening.

Now the lawn had reverted to scrub; the hedges and roses were gone. A formidable security gate blocked the way. The farm next door, where the farmer's 17-year-old daughter

watered the geraniums in her bikini, had become another look-alike villa. An unfriendly face stared out at me from an upstairs window.

I turned and walked back to Biot, feeling old. The last time I had come down this road, I was 21 and about to embark on the great adventure of hitchhiking to Cherbourg.

I stopped in a bar in Biot for a consoling lunch. This was, surely, the bar in which I had spent the evening before my departure. My companion that night was another fellow student, who had arrived to take over from me. He was a startlingly intelligent, and aggressively homosexual young man whom I barely knew. (He is now a celebrated novelist and biographer.)

Bored with my tales of life at the villa, he began to chat up a good-looking village boy in French even more appalling than mine. He proudly announced, after a few minutes, that his new friend had agreed to walk with him to see the sea. I thought this mildly odd since the sea was two miles away. I said nothing and went home. Five minutes after I got back, so did he. His friend had taken him, he explained irritably, not to see la mer (the sea) but to see la mairie (the town hall). The past is another country.

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lames Michener

James Albert Michener, writer: born New York 3 October 1907; married 1935 Patti Koon (marriage dissolved 1948), 1948 Vange Nord (marriaged dissolved 1955), 1955 Mari Yoriko Sabusawa (died 1994); died Austin, Texas 17 October

The life of the novelist James Michener is an archetypal rags to riches story. A foundling, raised largely in the poorhouse of Doylestown, Pennsylvania, he achieved, by dint of hard work and a lively intelligence. first, academic success in the field of education before the Second World War, then worldwide acclaim and incredible wealth in the decades after the war as the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of a string of epic

He won the Pulitzer at the age of 40 for his first book of fiction. Tales of The South Pacific (1948), a collection of stories which became the basis for the musical South Pacific. Thereafter, however, critics, whilst not denying his talent for narrative, have tended to sneer at his heavily researched "blockbusters" for their shallow characterisations, stilted dialogue and lack of style.

But readers love them. His books, which include Hawaii (1959), Caravans (1963), Centennial (1974), Chesapeake

(1978), Space (1982), Texas to art galleries - settling for gress on the Democratic (1985) and 25 or so others (fiction, non-fiction and memoir), have sold over 75 million copies in 52 languages and have formed the bases for nine major movies and half a dozen television films and mini-series.

Born in 1907, Michener never knew who his real parents were. He accepted that he never would and determinedly kept speculation out of his life. He was fostered by Mabel Michener who, when times were hard, was obliged to pack him off to the poorhouse for weeks at a time. He later attributed his lack of interest in material things to his povertystricken childhood.

Very early on in life I decided the bell with it, material things weren't for me," he said. Christmas would come and other kids would have all these presents and it wouldn't bother me a bit."

And indeed, relative to his incredible wealth, he seems to have lived a modest life, in certain instances a quirkily frugal one. He never bought shaving cream, for example, using instead odd slivers of soap he carefully saved. However, this did not make him a mean man. Indeed, he gave most of his money away.

In 1996 he estimated he had given away more than \$100 million to libraries, museums and universities over the years. He bought modern art to give prints on his own walls - and donated his \$25 million Japanese print collection to Honolulu's city art gallery.

His largesse to universities was partly due to gratitude - he was educated at nine of them. Although as a restless, adventurous teenager he had, by the age of 20, ridden freight trains and hitchhiked through 45 of America's then 48 states; taking odd jobs at carnivals and travelling shows as he went, he also excelled in his studies at school and won a scholarship to a Quaker college in 1929.

Before the Second World War he was heavily involved in educative work, so much so that he was a visiting professor of education at Harvard for a time. His wartime experiences

visiting the Pacific islands for the Navy - he started as a seaman third class and ended the war as a lieutenant commander - provided the material for Tales of The South Pacific. Thereafter, for the next four decades, he alternated works of non-fiction with his works of fiction set in exotic locations.

His non-fiction included several books about Japanese prints, a subject on which he was an expert, and an investigation of the Kent State killings (Kent State, 1971) which came down on the side of the rebellious students. (He was a supporter of Kennedy and stood unsuccessfully for Conticket.)

Most of his epic fiction follows the same formula: focus on a specific geographical location and tell a story based there over decades, even centuries - for Centennial he started with the geological formation of the North America land mass in prehistoric times and made his slow but fascinating way forward from there. To research such doorstop

books he would settle in the place he was studying for as long as it took - he once likened his research method to that of a "total-immersion Baptist". He spent much of the Fifties based in Hawaii (the eponymous novel took seven years to research and write) and two decades later ended up settling in Austin, Texas after spending two years researching his novel about the Lone Star State. (He estimated he had read over 400 books for that

Some of this research manifested itself in chunky ethnological, philosophical or historical essays awkwardly stuck into his narratives. The former educationalist didn't deny his didactic intent and indeed was the first to express surprise that his works were so popular since parts of them were often undigestible.

His dedication to research His drive presumably was a manifestation of his driharked back to his impoverven nature. Well into his eightished childhood but he would

ties, explored ancient cities in

the Middle East, visited Arctic

wastelands and South Sea is-

lands, the motive was usually re-

search rather than relaxation.

never discuss the psychological ies he would write for five consequences of that harsh hours each day, starting at time in interviews, except to say: 7.30am, seven days a week. When you have that kind of He rarely took a holiday. Alchildhood you become selfthough he frequently visited sufficient or you go down the Spain, which he regarded as his rubes. I missed a whole cycle of second home after discovering childhood but I've never used it as a student in the early Thir-

> it as a device for self-pity." Indeed, he seems to have blocked out completely whatever misery living in an institution caused him: he and his second wife adopted two sons, but the boys were returned to an orphanage when the mar-

John Eric Carter Rickman,

broadcaster and journalist:

born 28 May 1913; married

daughters); died Midhurst,

West Sussex 13 October

1997.

1939 Peggy Law (one son, two

By the simple yet symbolic art

of raising his hat to his amused

viewers, John Rickman played

a significant part in introducing

the sport of horse racing to the

John Rickman

riage ended. He was married three times. He married his third wife, Mari Yoriko Sabusawa, in 1955 and they were constant companions until her death in September 1994.

Michener, who in his life had survived three near-fatal plane crashes, had undergone a quintuple heart by-pass in 1986, and was already on dialysis treatment when his wife died. For over a decade, the globe-trotting writer who wrote a memoir called The World Is My Home (1992), was obliged to remain in

Austin because of his condition. He admitted that there was time after his wife's death when he thought of giving up. "A person on dialysis undergoes very heavy and irritating treatment and in time it seems more than you can hear," he said. "There's always an easy out. Just don't go to hospital. Then, after two weeks, you're dead." A few days after his

90th birthday, James Michen-

er took himself off his dialysis

- Peter Guttridge



Michener: his dedication to research was so intense he called himself a 'total immersion Baptist'

Viscount Deerhurst

Edward George William Omar Coventry, surfer: born 24 September 1957; styled Viscount Deerhurst since birth; died North Shore, Qahu, Hawaii 4 October

Ted Deerhurst was a serious surfer. But being born the son of the Earl of Coventry and thereby acquiring the nickname of "Lord Ted" in surfing circles, he had his work cut out convincing the cognoscenti that he was anything other than a playboy. Sleeping in a beaten-up old car, being broke for long periods and having an American mother probably helped. His high point was reaching the semi-finals of the Smirnoff at big Sunset Beach in 1978, But even though he never hit the top 100 in the professional rankings, he was, in many ways, the most persistent and committed performer on the world circuit.

He had to be: Deerhurst always surfed his heart out in every contest he competed in and he was nearly always trounced. He was a hero of never-say-die optimism. He was the only surfer who read history between heats (his idol was Winston Churchill). Every now and then he would be cast down after another crushing defeat, but he would invariably bounce back. When

he was seven, his horse threw him and stomped on him and his mother just put him straight back in the saddle: "I guess I've been getting back on that borse ever since," he said.

One December in Hawaii, at the end of his worst-ever tour, he discovered he had slid down the ladder from 189 to 235 in the world. It was the same year that Martin Potter, another Brit, took the world championship. Anyone else would have thrown in the towel - not Deerhurst though. While admitting he didn't have a realistic shot at the title, he still came up with the ingenious aim of winning the Most Improved Surfer of the Year award: he figured he would only have to jump up to around a hundred or so from his current lowly position to achieve the fastest rise in the history of pro surfing. Another time he switched to snow boarding with the famous last words. "At least you can't drown in the mountains". He spent the next six

months in hospital. Although he once surfed, as an amateur, for England, Deerhurst was a footloose citizen of the surf who lived at different times in Australia, California, and finally on the North Shore of Hawaii, where the mightiest waves in the world come to die every winter and generally take a few suffers with them. He mas-

queraded as a university student, but whenever the surf was up school was out. He became an adept of big-wave conditions and once described surfing a 20foot wave at Waimea Bay as being like "jumping off a three-storey house - and then having the house chase you down the street". His ultimate dream was of finding sponsors in Britain to fund the equipment for tow-in surfing in 30-foot plus

Even though he was approaching 40, he still competed. He speculated that the lack of a long-term girlfriend to accompany him on his travels back. He tried to rectify matters by falling in love with an exotic dancer in a night-club in Honolulu, but the extremely jealous gangster who was her boyfriend stood in the way of his plans.

Ted Deerhurst was an altruist among surfers. He set up the Excalibur Foundation (named after the boards he shaped with their distinctive sword logo) to enable handicapped and underprivileged kids to go surfing. Towards the end of his life, he was proud to have become a fully integrated member of the Hawaiian community and was in the forefront of the battle to prevent overdevelopment of the North Shore. The hard-to-impress lo-



Deerhurst: 'sharing the spirit of surfing' John S. Callaghan

cals treated him with respect and called him "brother".

Many of them gathered to paddle out at Sunset Beach the scene of his greatest triumph - in eight to ten feet surf and sprinkle his ashes upon the waves. "He wasn't on the fringe

of surfing," said Michael Willis, fellow surfer and shaper, "he was right at the heart".

The motto of Excalibur was "sharing the spirit of surfing". Ted Deerhurst was the energetic embodiment of that ideal. - Andy Martin

He certainly provided mo-

racecourse near London when a telephone rang on his desk. Rickman, no doubt thinking it would be bad manners not to answer, picked it up and said: "I'm on air and very busy. I'll call you back." Less amusing was an occasion at Newcastle when his copresenters, flying to the course, were delayed by a strong headwind. Rickman not only presented the show but also provided paddock commentary and actually called the races. In doing so he fulfilled perfectly the role of a broadcasting swan;

world of independent television. The first man to introduce horse racing on an independent channel, on London Weekend Television's World of Sport, he was for many people an initial contact to the often baffling codes of Flat and National Hunt racing. His style was to greet bis viewers with familiar. yet formal, charm and ease.

This he did for 23 years, and at a time when ITV had a major hold on armchair punters through its ITV Seven, a daunting task which saw people try and select the winners of seven races from two televised racetracks. When Rickman was on air there was always the feeling that racing was a sport not to be taken too seriously; it was a vessel of fun.

ments of fun when broadcasting live. On one occasion he was broadcasting from Sandown

while below the surface there may have been plenty of flapping, above water the impression

as one of eleg There could not have been a neater dovetail for Rickman than a career which combined iournalism and horseracing. His great-grandfather Tom Jennings trained the French-bred 1865 Derby winner and Triple Crown winner Gladiateur. while his son, also called Tom, trained three Classic winners himself. Such a lineage was the proud source for the title of Rickman's autobiography Old Tom and Young John, published in 1990. Rickman's father Eric, meanwhile, was a journalist, writing under the name Robin Goodfellow on the racing pages of the Daily Mail.

Rickman himself was educated at Haileybury and em-



Rickman: familiar yet formal

barked on his career in journalism serving on papers in Bristol. He started to follow in his father's footsteps in 1934 injoining the Daily Mail. During the Second World War, be shire Regiment. Afterwards, he returned to the Daily Mail and wrote under the Robin Goodfellow nom de plume.

He made a particular impression as a racing tipster, often winning the Sporting Life paps table, the competition held between journalists to gauge their ability to pinpoint wingers.

Aside from his Daily Mail work. Rickman also wrote a number of books, among them Homes Of Sport (1952) and Eight Flat Racing Stables (1979). Away from racing, Rickman had a holiday home on the Scottish island of Jura, and was also a keen golfer and dog breeder. - Richard Griffiths

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

ELLIS: On 16 September, to Diana (nee Hulbert) and Richard, a son, James Frederick, a brother for Olivia.

BLACK: Ian Stuart, author, scriptwriter and playwright, father of Isobel, Moray, Alison and Alan, died peace-fully at home with his family in South Devon on 13 October 1997.

IN MEMORIAM

JOHNSON: Peter. Happy Birthday

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

TODAY Princess Margaret attends a per-formance of Handel's Messuh at the Banqueting House, London SWI, in aid of Help the Hospices and in thanksgiving for Hospice Care throughout the world. The Duchess of Kent, Patron, British Telecommunications Voices for Hospices 1997, attends a performance of the Messigh, Southwark Cathedral, Loudon SE1. TOMORROW: The Dake of York, Admiral of the Sea Cadet Corps, takes the salute at the Sea Cadet Corps Trafolgur Parade,

Changing of the Guard

TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mountrouser: the rousenoid Cavary Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life
Guard at Horse Guards, I am: The
Queen's Colour Squadron mounts the
Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace,
II Wam, hand provided by the Grenader
Guards, TOMORROW, The Household
Cavalor Mountal Businest mounts the Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards.

Birthdays TODAY: Sir Timothy Bell, chairman, Lowe Bell Communications, 56; Mr Chuck Berry, rock and roll singer, 71; British Tourist Authority, 53; Sir Michael Burton, ambassador to the Czech Republic, 60; Lord Clark of Kempston, former MP, 80; Professor Timothy Clark, Dean and Professor of Pulmonary Medicine, National Heart and Lung Institute, 62; Lord Cooke of Isandreagh, chairman, Springvale EPS, 77; Mr Geordie Dun, amateur jockey, 39; Lord Elis-Thomas, former MP, 51; Mr Sam Gal-braith MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Scottish Office, 52; Mr Harold Hankins, former principal, University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST), 67, Mr Jim Harding, chief executive, NSPCC, 55; Lord Kimball, former MP, 69; Miss Martina Navratilova, tennis player, 41; Sir James Nursaw QC. former HM Procurator-General and Treasury Solicitor, 65; Sir Joseph Pope, consultant, TQ International, 83; Dr Kate Pretty, principal, Homerton College. Cambridge, 52: Lady Saltoun, chief of Clan Praser, 67: Mr George C. Scott, actor, 70; Mr Gladstone Small, cricketer, 36: Mr Michael Stich, tennis champion, 41; Lord Taverne OC, president, PRIMA Europe, 69; Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Terry, former Governor of Gibraltar, 71; Mr Pierre Trudeau CH, former

Canadian Prime Minister, 78; Vice-Admiral Sir James Willis, former Chief of Naval Staff, Australia, 74. TOMORROW: Mr Jack Anderson. newspaper columnist, 75; Sir Leslie Boreham, former High Court judge, 79; Professor Sir Robert Boyd, physirist, 75; Dr David Clark MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, 58; Mr David Comwell (John Le Carre), novelist, 66; Sir John Cullen, former chairman, Health and Safety Com-

mission, 71: Lord Evans of Parkside,

former MP. 67; The Very Rev David

Frayne, Provost of Blackburn, 63; Mr Bernard Hepton, actor, 72; Mr Gavin Hewitt, former ambassador to Croatia, 53; Dr Robin Holloway, composer and Lecturer in Music, Cambridge University, 54; Mr Paul Holmer, former ambassador to Romania, 74; Sir Robert Jennings, QC, former president, international Court of Justice, 84: Miss Rosamund John, actress, 84; Mr Graham Lock, former chief executive, Amalga-mated Metal, 66; Mr Bill Morris, trade-union leader, 59; Miss Mavis Nicholson, broadcaster, 67; Admiral of the Fleet Sir Michael Pollock, 81; Sir Allan Ramsay, former ambas-sador to Morocco, 60; Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Skingsley, former Deputy Commander in Chief, Allied Forces Central Europe, 64; Sir Harold Walker, former ambassador to Iraq. 65; Major Sir Patrick Wall. former MP. 81: Mr Peter Whiston. architect. 85.

Lectures TODAY

National Gallery: Steven Adams, Cityscapes (iii): Monet, The Gare St-Victoria and Albert Museum: Moira Thunder, "18th-century Masquerade

Costume Depicted in Prints and Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury. "Turning to the Bottle for Inspira-

tion", lpm. British Museum: Lorna Oakes, "Growth of the Assyrian Empire". National Portrait Gallery: Margaret Binnie, "William Hogarth and His

Comic Muse", 3pm. TOMORROW Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury. "Aureate Magic: pigment into gold", 2.30pm.

National Portrait Gallery: Paul

Webb, "Julie Andrews", 3pm.

FAITH & REASON

At prayer with the new Carey Conservatism

The Church of England may once again be becoming the Tory Party at prayer, suggests Paul Handley - but not for reasons which will please either organisation.

Perhaps it's just the hairline - or maybe the tired look about the eyes - but I keep getting William Hague and George Carey mixed up. It has been particularly bad this week, with the pair of them making long and important speeches within four days of each other: both staring into the future, both very definitely not seeing any void.

It was Tony Blair, of course, who first demonstrated how a party-conference address could sound like a sermon; but it wasn't until this week that I realised how a sermon, or rather, a lecture, by the Archbishop could sound like a party-conference address. Like William Hague's conference address, to be precise. Mr Hague told the party faithful at Blackpool last Friday: "Fresh, open, clear and united: that's what I wanted to see, and that is what has been delivered." Dr Carev's themes in his "vision for the millen-

"Never again will we have a divided organisation," said Mr Hague. "Unity and interdependence is God's vision for his creation," said Dr Carey. "Never again will the voice of our members go unheard," said Mr Hague. "How very tardy we have been in the past to recognise the ministry of the laity!" said Dr Carey. And so on. One of them used the phrase "I believe" 11 times, and it wasn't Dr Carey.

Perhaps the similarities in style are not that surprising, since both leaders have the same problem: a large, wellestablished organisation which is used to being in power and which is having to cope with the fact that it isn't, In the case of the Conservative Party, the loss of power came suddenly, and the numb, shell-shocked expression was still to be seen on the faces in Blackpool. For the Church of England there has been no election to lose; just a slow decline of numbers and influence over many years, leaving the faithful looking resigned and morose. In response, Mr Hague and Dr Carey have adopted similar tactics.

First; be honest about the past. "I want to tell you about a changing Connium" lecture in Leicestershire on servatism that acknowledges its mis-Monday night were confidence, takes," said Mr Hague, "I have never

mission (which meant openness) and denied the fact that statistics show numerical decline," said Dr Carey.

Second: present things in the best possible light. For Mr Hague, this is the Jewish Chronicle carried an attack easy: anything that the Labour Government does which is successful and popular, must be shown to have originally been a Tory policy. Dr Carey has to rely a little more heavily on rhetoric. In his lecture, he listed some of the things we should celebrate about the modern Church of England. The simultaneous translation is mine, "Our capacity for reform and self-renewal has been demonstrated again and again. [With our backs to the wall, we've had to do something.] The empowerment of lay people. [Not enough priests.] Burgeoning numbers of non-stipendiary ministers. [Not enough money to pay them.] Reforms in the Church Commissioners and our national institutions. [Nearly not enough money to pay me.] The ordination of thousands of women to the pricethood. [Not enough men: hesides, it's easier to get women to work for nothing.] Dynamic evangelising

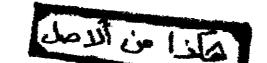
initiatives. [See next point.]" Third, and most important: recruit or die. Last week's Sunday Times carried a critical report about Church of England bishops going "soft on sin": despite repeated claims that the Church upholds the institution of marriage, sev-

eral bishops had admitted that they would not anathematise couples who were "living in sin". Three days later, on William Hague by the former Chief Rabbi, Lord Jakobovits, who accused him of ditching traditional morality. "The Conservative Party used to insist on maintaining family values. It now wants to abandon this for a few votes."

In all this the Anglicans use a similar lexicon to the Tories. For both organisations, then, the discovery of a liberal, compassionate heart has grown out of failure and desperation. This does not make it any less genuine; confident, successful organisations seldom have the desire or the capacity to draw in new and potential disruptive recruits; or, if they do draw them in, they expect the recruits to change, not the organisation. With such a mindset, the organisation, be it a party or a church, doesn't stay successful for long.

So, is the Church of England becoming, once again, the Conservative Party at prayer? This was the one point where the two leaders differed. Mr Hague told his supporters that his party had "got up off its knees". Dr Carey hopes that his supporters will stay

Faith & Reason is edited by Paul Vallely



Footsie takes heart from bid rumours in the financial sector

wort Benson appeared to do

were also reigned back and the

slures downgraded to neutral

1.432.5p, and LucasVerity.

left BICC off 8p at 200p.

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN STOCK MARKET REPORTER OF THE YEAR

The slock market endured minster Bank, on growing anniversary of the crash.

driven trading for blue chips options it could be argued there was enough to dwell on without worrying about any superstitious possibility of history repeating itself.

At its lowest Footsie was down 34.7 points. With New York showing a degree of hesitation after its overnight fall there was, just for a moment, a danger the market would take fright and suffer a sharp

off 16.8 points at 5,271.1. The with fund managers on Tues-FTSE SmallCap index actually made headway.

A clutch of financial shares

just a modest hint of jitters in speculation of a deal over its was the major casualty, off 38p the final run-up to the tenth underperforming investment to 631.5p. Dresdner Kleinarm or even a bid for the whole With the last day of quote-caboodle from the likes of the damage. It was said to have Barelays, added 36p to 972.5p. cut its profit estimates from causing some anxiety and the Barclays rose 24p to 1,675p. £231m to £226m for this year expiry of the October FTSE Abbey National, again on talk and from £265m to £255m for of deals, rose to a peak of next. Dividend expectations

> Commercial Union, currently the market's favourite - from buy, GKN, off 41.5p to target stretched 11.5p to 876p. another record, and Royal & 7.5p to 218p, were marked Sun Alliance, the subject this week of profit worries, recovered 12p to 636.5p.

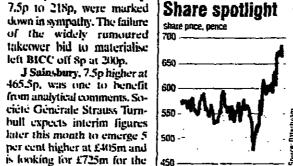
990.5p, up 24p,

Royal Bank of Scotland, backing the banking aspirations of the ubiquitous Richard Branson, put on 12.5p to from analytical comments. So-In the event Footsie closed 699.5p. A signalled meeting day was probably a more im- later this month to emerge 5 portant influence. Hambros, as break-up hopes again went the

TI Group, the engineer, £25m to £720m. Last year the superstores chain produced £65 lm.

> Chloride, the electrical group, improved 1,25p to nology group, ended at 113.5p 36.5p. The shares are seen as from a 110p placing. undervalued judged by the £360m BTR is paying for the American Exide group.

Coffee Republic, the coffee



33.5p. Another newconner Metalsrussia attracted further attention, gaining 13p to 311.5p. 92.5p. Xaar, a printing tech-

Medisys, until recently known as Biocure, improved 2p to 23.5p. The medical systems designer and maker has har group, had another strong achieved marketing approval from the American Food and Drug Administration for a needle incinerator which destroys hypodermic needles.

Siber Energy held at 22.5p. a peak. Henderson Crosthwaite describe the shares, ership of Dewar's Highland which arrived in April at 10p, could, say, buy the European as a "speculative buy". The company has interests in two profits of £10m a year. Russian quoted oil exploration operations.

upped its year's estimate by session, ending 5.5p higher at fears it may have to help out its French associate, Remy Cointreau, flew 14p higher to

> There are suggestions it could emerge as the buyer of Dewar's, the Scotch whisky GMG Brands (Grand Metropolitan and Guinness) have been ordered to give up in Europe and are likely to be asked to surrender in the US.

> Some suggest Dewar's, the top selling Scotch in the US, could he worth more than £500m, a price probably out of Highland's reach.

> But if GMG break-up ownoperations which command

Chemical Design, which slumped more than 100p in Highland Distilleries, the two days, railied 40p to 130p; mous Grouse group which engineer Carbo improved 2.5p

TAKING STOCK

Serif, the security printer, added 1.25p to 4.75p, highest for more than a year, it looks as though the long-suspected revamping exercise will soon be under way.

Philip Davies, owner of Warm Welcome, a hotel and pub operator, and John Gulliver, a US lawyer have almost 21 per cent of the capital following a steady build up. Serif has been bedevilled by problems for

It has made losses for the last five. The shares were 31p three years ago.

Select Appointments, little changed at 612p, should lift profits from £19.9m to £32.3m this year, believes

stockbroker Granville Davies. **Analyst Simon Lapthorne** looks for the recruitment group to hit £38.7m next year.

		A clutch of financial shares led Footsie. National West-	break-up hopes again went the is to rounds, rose 10p to 258.5p. year	oking for 1725m for the NatWest Securities 0 HD J F	Famous Grou	rie group which engineer Carb agged down by to 32.5p.	o improved 25p The shares were down to 36.5p four years ago.
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BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@ INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Railtrack increases West Coast investment to £2bn in revenue-sharing deal with Virgin

Railtrack is set to invest an extra £500m upgrading the West Coast Main Line as part of an innovative risk and revenue sharing

agreement with the operator of the line, Virgin Rail. Michael Harrison examines the funding of the most ambitious rail project this century.

The additional investment by Railtrack will take spending on the modernisation of the West Coast Main Line to around £2bn and allow trains to travel at up to 140 mph. Together with the new fleet of tilting trains Virgin is ordering for the line, total investment will reach £2.5hn.

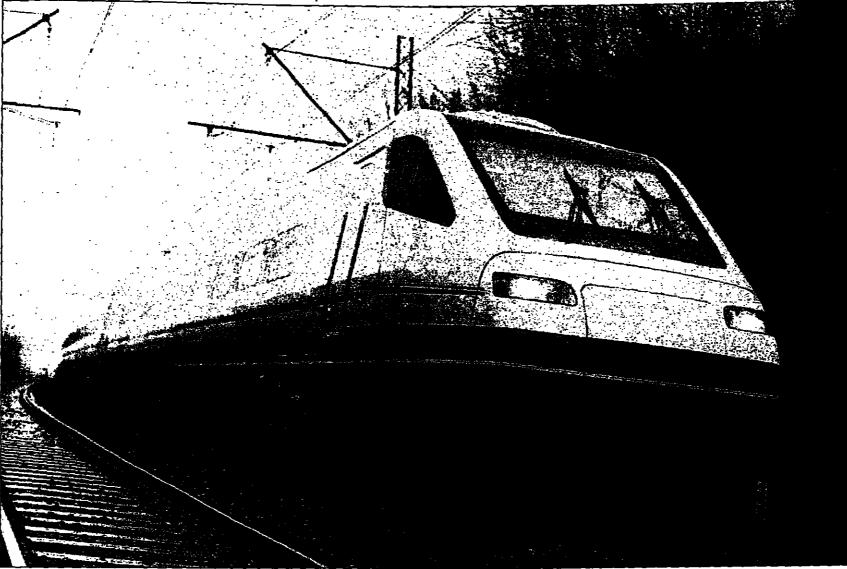
Railtrack, which owns the country's network of tracks, signalling and stations, had already agreed to invest £1.5bn to update the line and enable it to take tilting trains. This will increase maximum speeds to 125mpb.

But the extra £500m will allow speeds to be increased by another 15 mph. This will reduce the journey time from London to Manchester to under two hours and allow Glasgow to be reached in under four hours. Birmingham will be about one hour away from the capital.

In return for the extra investment, Railtrack will take a share of the revenues from the line. These were £220m last year but Virgin believes that the new rolling stock and reduced journey times, together with worsening road congestion, could mean revenues doubling over the next 10 years.

Railtrack, whose overall investment programme totals £10bn over the next 15 years, is expected to complete negotiations with Virgin and announce the revenue sharing deal in the next three to four weeks.

An announcement about which of five competing bidders has won the train order is due around Christmas. Virgin is buying 46 trains for the West Coast Mainline and a further 298 carriages for its other passenger franchise, Cross Country Trains, in an order worth a total of £750m. The Cross Country trains will be diesel drive and the West Coast trains will be electric. But all the rolling stock will be of the tilting variety



The Pendolino tilting train, made by Fiat of Italy, is among the front-runners for an order by Virgin, which is spending £500m on rolling stock for the upgraded line

since some of Cross Country's services use parts of the West Coast Mainline.

The three front-runners for the order are Fiat of Italy, which has teamed up with GEC to offer its Pendolino tilting train, Adtranz, which is a partnership between ABB and Daimler-Benz, and Siemens of

bids are due in on 5 November.

trains will be built in Britain, GEC's facilities are in Birmingham while Adtranz owns the old British Rail Engineering works in Derby. Siemens would probably negotiate

bardier of Spain and CAF of Spain. Final is successful. Fiat has most experience of tilting trains. The Pendolino has been in commercial service since 1976 and there are now 55 trains in operation in Italy, Switzerland. Germany and Finland. Great North East- year. The flotation is designed to raise new ern Railways, which took over the East Coast Germany. The other two bidders are Bon- to carry out assembly work in the UK if it dolinos and has options to buy a further five.

Although Virgin Rail will lease the trains rather than buy them outright it will help finance the expansion through a stock market flotation planned for early next money, with neither Virgin Rail nor any

Rumours send NatWest and **Barclays** higher

Another day of frantic speculation in bank stocks sent NatWest and Barclays sharply higher yesterday. Tom Stevenson, Financial Editor, reports on the rumour mill which could agree on the deals but not the names in the frame.

City gossip had both BZW and NatWest Markets on the block this weekend, with a range of buyers for both investment banks. Both parent banks treated the increasingly frenetic speculation with their usual haughty disdain but shares in Barclays closed 24p higher at £16.75 and NatWest rose 36p to 972.5p on the rumours.

The most persistent story was Barclays concluding a sale of BZW to Credit Suisse First Boston, which occupies the building next to BZW's new headquarters in the Canary Wharf development in London's docklands.

One source close to the sale said: "An early sale would be highly desirable and CSFB would be a highly logical choice". Barclays would only add: "The process is continuing and proceeding as you would,

With BZW known to be up for sale, rather more interest was provoked by speculation that NatWest might be on the brink of announcing a sale of its NatWest Markets subsidiary. There was confusion, however, about whether ABN Amro was poised to swoop or Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. A NatWest spokesman said, predictably: "We never comment on market. rumours at all."

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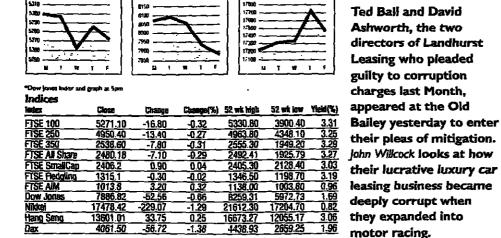
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Attention then turned to the week's reheated story that Barclays has not yet given up its ambitions to take over NatWest to dominate high street banking in Britain. Martin Taylor, the chief executive of Barclays who has come in for forceful criticism of his handling of the BZW sale, is understood to harbour a strong wish to tie up a deal that would give the combined bank ar almost 50 per cent share of retail accounts. cards and small business banking.

Sentiment in Nat West was also boosted by rumours that Chip Kruger, the new chief executive of troubled NatWest Markets, was Mainline, has already ordered two Pen- of its venture capital partners selling about to announce his conclusions on the way forward for the business.

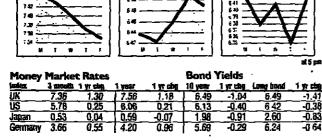
STOCK MARKETS

FTSE 100



INTEREST RATES

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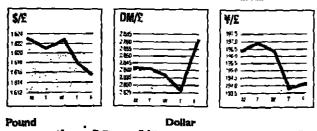


US long bond

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

at Epide
-5.68
-3,85
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CURRENCIES



1.5669

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17<u>8.87</u> Yen

Sterling 0.6189 +0.13p

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								Baua.

Whichever bidder wins the contest, the

John Snow, the England test

cricket legend, gave evidence

yesterday on behalf of one the

two men, whose "obsession"

with Formula One racing drove

them to commit a £50m fraud.

Leasing, saw his dream of be-

ing a Grand Prix major player

shattered in 1992 when his

company collapsed following an

investigation by accountants

The accountants unearthed

a web of corrupt cash pay-

ments by a corporate client,

Middlehridge Group Ltd

Arthur Andersen.

Ball, founder of Landhurst

Landhurst's finance director.

Both pleaded guilty to corrup-

tion charges last month. Mr Jus-

tice Pownall heard their

counsels' pleas in mitigation yes-

terday. They are due to be sen-

Ball's company provided £1m to

MGL to buy the historic Brab-

ham Racing Team in 1990. This

The Old Bailey heard how

tenced on Monday.

(MGL), to Ball and Ashworth. and he and Ashworth "cooked

Formula One obsession led to £50m Landhurst fraud

the books" to hide from the £8.5m was advanced to Mid-Guinness Mahon merchant dlebridge. banking adviser the support Landhurst's banks were led they were giving to Middleby Guinness Mahon, and in-

worth demanded £420,000 in hackhanders The court heard that when Ashworth was first offered a cheque by Middlebridge, he

bridge. In return Ball and Ash-

was in itself a breach of Landcash. hurst's covenants with its banks. At another time Ashworth Ron Thwaites QC, representing Ball, claimed his client's passion for racing "blinded" him to his business commitments

arrived at a motorway service station on the M1 by taxi and was given a briefcase containing £60,000 in banknotes by a Middlebridge contact. In total.

said: "Don't be silly, I want

cluded the Prudential, and several Swiss and Canadian banks. The court heard how, when Andersens were called in, only £70m of £121m lent by the banks to Landhurst was recoverable. Of the £7.2m which MGL owed to Landhurst under various leases, only £1m was recoverable.

Fast bowler Mr Snow, who

ity. The cricketer said he had known Ball for nearly 20 years, first through business and then through the charity the Lords Taverners, which raises cash through cricket matches.

"obsession" - supporting char-

Mr Snow said he believed Ball to be straightforward and honest. "He is also very generous through his charity work. "He participates in that without any calling for publicity."

Ball, of Hartfield, East Sussex, has admitted eight charges played for Sussex and Eng- of corruption. Ashworth, 45, of land, was called as a character South Ascot, Berkshire, has witness to explain Ball's other admitted two charges.

Maid shocks investors with profit warning

Maid the electronic information company which earlier this month doubled its size by buying Knight-Ridder Information, yesterday shocked investors by issuing a profits warning. The news came as Maid unveiled details of a share placing to raise £119.9m for the acquisition. Cathy Newman

City analysis were surprised but unruffled by the statement that client uncertainty as a resuit of the deal was likely to have in the fourth quarter this year. Sales in the third quarter were

reports.

virtually flat, Maid soid. The company said that the impending acquisition had caused some clients to defer new subscriptions.

"Through September, clients have increasingly adopted a 'wait-and-see' stance to signing new contracts, due to the uncertainty of details of merged product offerings and related pricing structures." Maid said.

However, Dan Wagner, the

ecutive who will head up the newly merged group, denied the statement was a profit warning.

"I see it as a clarification of current trading." he said. "I thought the statement was very unbeat. We don't want people to be under any illusions of the impact of a deal of this size for a small company such as Maid." Mr Wagner said the placing

of 54.5 million shares at 220p a share had been two times oversubscribed, reflecting excitement about the deal in the City. Chris Sielern, technology analyst at Bryan Garnier, a brokers specialising in technol-

ogy stocks, said the warning on revenues had come out of the blue but was not a worry. "Sure. it's a profits warning, an impact on Maid's revenues but they still expect to have growth above 40 per cent per annum on the Maid side of the

> business . he said. He added that in the past few months, management had been focusing on other things. "This has just affected one quarter, which is why I'm not really worried about it."

The merged company, to be called the Dialog Corporation, will be the world's largest online information provider. Maid will raise the rest of the money needed for the \$420m (£261m) acquisition through company's flamboyant chief ex- junk bonds and new debt.

Vauxhall to cut its dealer network by a quarter

Vauxhall is to cut its car dealer network by a quarter in an attempt to boost its profitability. Chris Godsmark, Business examines the latest shake-out in the UK car

The cuts in Vauxhall's dealer chain have been outlined internally by Nick Reilly, chairman and managing director, as part of a policy called Managed Area Approach (MAA). It would see the current network of 520 dealerships reduced to around 380 to 400, although some dealers believe it could see Vauxhall cut almost 200 of its

The policy would see bigger dealer groups invited to expand their presence in urban areas in a move which is likely to intensify the pressure on smaller, independent outlets. Some 430 separate businesses currently run Vauxhall's dealer network, a figure which will drop as companies with bigger resources take control of larger groups of sites.

The manufacturer has asked dealers to invest heavily in extra customer service benefits, but smaller franchises were unlikely to be able to afford to take

on further staff. Vauxhall, part of the US giant General Motors, confirmed the cutbacks, but said that at the same time dealers would be opening smaller satellite outlets, many of which would not sell cars but would provide servicing facilities. This could increase the overall network to 600 sites.

"We've been in touch with retailers over the past few months. Those who will remain with us have all been contacted," said a spokesman.

The company said the MAA policy would be implemented in the spring. "We're looking reducing the number of traditional retailers but increasing the number of customer facing outlets. We'd describe it as an an evolution rather than a revolupretty difficult to be profitable

Other manufacturers are also rationalising their networks. Last year Fiat gave control of its entire greater London sales operation to the Derbybased Pendragon group. Pendragon will have opened 17 Fiat dealerships in the M25 area by next spring and says it can boost earnings by centralising marketing and accounting op-

Orange raises £1.75bn for foreign spending spree

the UK's four mobile phone networks, has raised £1.75bn from its bankers to fund a foreign spending spree. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, outlines the company's expansion

Orange, the newest of

The new borrowing facility, revealed yesterday, is thought to be the largest debt financing deal ever secured by a European mobile phone network.

The £1.75bn of loans raised for Orange will replace the company's existing £1.2bn facility, arranged two years ago in advance of the group's flotation. It means the company tion. Times have changed - it's will be able to draw on £550m of extra resources.

Graham Howe, Orange's finance director, said the company would keep the additional spending power in reserve to pursue acquisitions

Orange has already said it intends to bid for mobile licences in the Netherlands and Belgium. while earlier this the group sealed a £45m deal in Austria. country's third digital mobile

licence. "This gives us the opportunity of participating in a number of overseas ventures. But we've got no clear-cut idea of how that money will be spent." admitted Mr Howe.

Analysts were surprised yesterday that Orange said it would not need to draw on the extra cash to pay for its £800m in vestment programme in its core UK network. In August the company announced an ambitious expansion s' ategy to double its number of signal base stations from 3.000 to

6,000 by the end of next year. The new borrowing facility was put together by two US banks, Chase Manhattan and JP Morgan.

Mr Howe said all of the 25 further lenders invited into the deal had taken up the offer, and the loan facility was 70 per cent oversubscribed. It will cut the interest rate on the loans from 1.5 percentage points above short-term money market rates, to 1 per cent.

Orange shares, which had been depressed for much of this year, rose to a record high yesterday on evidence of a continuing boost to consumer demand. They ended 3p higher, to take a 17.45 per cent stake at 254.5p, compared with last in a consortium awarded the year's 205p flotation price.

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JEREMY WARNER ON NIGHTMARES ON WALL STREET AND BRANSON'S BANKING FORAY

We should be relieved if it's only a repeat of 1987

Few people can have failed to realise that this weekend is the tenth unniversary of the stock market crash of 1987. The newspapers and brokers' circulars have been full of it. All of them have pointed to the uncanny similarities between then and now. The rise in the Dow Jones Industrial Average over the last four years superimposes almost exactly on the chart running up to the 1987 crash. Economic conditions, both in the US and Britain, are also very similar. Buoyant, low inflation, conditions reigned supreme.

And exactly the same sort of things were being said about why the world coonomy had changed fundamentally in a way that meant the massive economic corrections of the past would never be repeated. We have entered a "new paradigm", to use the jargon of the US, which has all but abolished the business cycle, improved productivity levels beyond anything believed possible before, and changed asset valuations for ever.

Despite these parallels, few people believe we are heading for anything like another 1987. One of the more fashionable theories at the moment suggests that at worst equity values will plateau for a while before moving upwards again. I've been wrong about Wall Street for so long now that I am scarcely best qualified to comment on these matters, but I believe this optimistic view of stock valuations is

dangerously complacent, that what we have seen on Wall Street is the build up of a speculative bubble comparable in scope to the one that consumed the Japanese stock market in the early 1990s.

When it bursts, as eventually it must, the fall out is going to be equally catastrophic, perhaps worse given the size and importance of the US economy. If we are about to see a mere repeat show of 1987, then we should all feel mighty relieved about it. 1987 was not a proper crash at all. In the scale of things, it was but a minor hiccup in a 20year bull market. What comes next is going to be a lot more serious than that.

The number of pointers to the extremes of Wall Street's position have become too numerous to list. Here's one I came across which seems particularly vivid and striking. The average American would have to work nearly four times as long today to buy a single share in the Standard and Poors as he would have had to in the early 1980s. Using the same yardstick, he would have to work twice as long today as at the top of the last great bull market of the 1960s.

It seems highly probable that the boom on Wall Street has begun to contribute to economic growth in the US - that it is the stock market that has begun to drive the American economy rather than the other way round. Money can be raised for next to nothing, forecast rates of return have reached fairy-tale proportions, an investment boom of quite staggering proportions has built up, both within the stock market and in new business ventures. That the stampede will eventually reverse is not in question. Nor is its effect when it does - an investment freeze and recession exacerbated by a stock market crash. The only question is when. At this stage, the simmering trade row with Japan doesn't look serious enough to trigger it, but you never know.

How it is that Richard Branson ever finds the time to go hot air ballooning is anyone's guess. Even by his own hyperactive standards, this has been quite a year for the billionaire entrepreneur. In the last fortnight alone he's launched two new business ventures, been lambasted over poor standards of service at Virgin Trains, and hired Chris Evans to Virgin Radio. His latest escapade is One, billed with characteristic hyperbole as "a revolutionary banking account set to turn personal banking on its head".

On queue, Mr Branson was available for photo call yesterday resplendent in bowler hat, rolled umbrella and Virginstyle red pinstripe. Doesn't this man know when to stop? And should we be trusting someone with a finger in so many pies to handle our money?

Taking the two questions in turn, Mr Branson's achievement and brilliance as an entrepreneur has been to establish the

Virgin name as a powerful brand that can be used over a wide and diverse range of consumer products. Mr Branson personifies what the brand stands for - youth, daring, the faintly anarchistic, fun, antiestablishment, and the independent.

Not for Mr Branson the modern day corporate mantra of "focus" and sticking to a particular business. He comes at it from the other direction, using his hrand to peach business from the soft under belly of a whole range of established and complacent oligopolies. The dizzying collection of unrelated businesses that now make up the Virgin empire would make your average fund manager, if this were a publicly quoted company, quite ill with anxiety. Had the City had any say in the matter, it would

have stopped Mr Branson ages ago. Mr Branson's latest foray - into the world of direct banking - is typical of his technique. Virgin is hardly the first to spot the business opportunity that lies in the fat margins and general complacency of the established banking market. The supermarket groups and a number of other species of low cost banking were ahead of him. But in introducing one stop banking which lumps together your mortgage, savings, current account and other loans, he and his partner, Royal Bank of Scotland, have come up with a simple, clever and genuinely new mar-

keting idea with widespread appeal. It won't suit everyone, and to be honest, those with the time and sophistication to do these things would undoubtedly be better off financially by continuing to customise their own personal finance needs. Indeed this new banking service only really pays for those whose saving deposits come close to the size of their mortgage and other loans. Such people ought in any case to be asking themselves why they are in this position.

What is more, though the scheme has plenty to commend it in terms of convenience, there are obvious dangers. For the ill disciplined, there is every incentive to spend all the equity value of your property. There appears to be nothing that would compel the account holder to save in a manner which would allow him to pay off his loan on retirement.

What I'm struggling to say here is that this is an idea with such obvious and widespread appeal that it is quite astonishing no one has ever tried it before. On the other hand it doesn't offer significant cost advantages over traditional, more piecemeal methods of banking and there are clear dangers with the whole thing. Classic Branson. People will flock to this product if for no other reason that it carries the Virgin name. Because a parsimonious Scottish bank lies behind the whole thing, nobody needs to be too concerned about Mr Branson's credit worthiness either. But is this really such a revolution in personal banking? I think not.

Waterstone presents WH Smith's new head with a baptism of fire

Richard Handover, the new WH Smith chief executive, has already had to cope with a restructuring approach from Tim Waterstone, the company's own demerger announcement and criticism that he is not the right man for the job. And all in his first couple of weeks.

But as Nigel Cope, City Correspondent hears, he still has to convince institutional shareholders that he can steer the group into calmer

reignts

Richard Handover is little more than a fortnight into the job as hief executive of the troubled retailer WH Smith and it is no surprise that he is looking a little crumpled. His face is etched with deep lines not really commensurate with his 51 years. His rather un-CEO-like blue and yellow checked shirt is coming untucked at the back. And when he walks across the room you can see there is a small hole in the seat of his trousers. With his gaunt looks and stooping gait he looks more like your old geography master than a man charged with one of the most difficult jobs in UK retailing.

Such has been the ferocity of criticism of both him and his company and such has been the frenzy of activity at Smith's London head office that he could be forgiven for feeling exhausted, though he will not admit it. "I feel good, full of energy and am keen to get on. It's been an amazing couple of weeks and

a steep learning curve." It has certainly been a baptism of fire. Mr Waterstone launched his surprise restruc-

turing proposals before Mr



Richard Handover: 'It's been an amazing couple of weeks Photograph: FT and a steep learning curve'

Handover had even taken over cause Smith's couldn't find in the hot seat vacated by Bill Cockburn. And on his third day 17 days in office. in the job the WH Smith board made its first hasty rebuttal of

the Waterstone plan. Since then Smith's has been a whirlwind of activity, culminating in its decision on Thursday to break itself up with the demerger of the Waterstone's bookselling business and the sale of the music operations including Virgin-Our Price. And list of attributes. ever since his appointment he has had to put up with carping that he only got the top job be-

anyone else. Not bad for his first

But he is an amiable man and is taking it well. He can accept the criticism, he says, but the youngest of his three children finds it upsetting. And his 32 years at Smiths, which have included spells running Our Price records and the cash-generative news distribution business, mean loyalty is high on his

He is adamant there has been no U-turn in strategy at Smith's even though he said

himself only last month that "we are not about to break up."

Barings [Smith's financial advisors] was asked early in the summer to consider a wide range of financial options. But Bill Cockburn's departure put Jeremy Hardie (the WH Smith chairman] in a difficult position. He had to adopt a kind of holding pattern. As a non-executive chairman be couldn't have made an executive decision on something like that until the chief executive position had been filled. It wouldn't have been right."

He says he was committed to the idea of a restructure before he got the chief executive job. "I passionately believe it is the right thing to do and believe I have the complete backing of the board."

But he may not have the full backing of all the shareholders. One said vesterday that Mr Waterstone appeared to have a how to revitalise the core high street chain and that the Smith plan has several weaknesses. The investor said he would like to know the future of the costly Swindon distribution centre, which Mr Waterstone would close, and the board's

plans for the level of gearing. The shareholder added: "One cannot help but feel that they have been bounced into this and that they are reacting to events rather than pursuing a genuine strategy. They say they discussed it in the summer. One is tempted to ask to see the board minutes."

Another said that the position of Mr Hardie was increasingly tenuous given his handling of the search for a new chief executive and the Waterstone approach. "Perhaps he is one of the divestments the board would like to make," he said.

WH Smith will find out how more shareholders, large and small feel about their ideas when they hold their annual meeting next Wednesday.

Who will be in EMU? The financial markets' view The closer other countries get to the deshed baseline (Gert the more likely they are to join EMIL.

TOWARDS EMU: If the time moves towards the German base line it means investors no longer require such a high premium for holding that country's bonds compared to German ones, because they are comfident the currency won't devalue against the mark. In other words, they think that country will be locked into

AWAY FROM EMU: However, if they think the country won't be in EMU, that it will have higher inflation, and that there is a risk of a future devaluation against the mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so the line will move away from the base.

When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.

there Boldman Sache HSRC James Canel HRS what probability they placed on EMU starting on time.

> Probability EMIJ starts on time: (79% last week) Probability EMU is delayed: (15% last week) 13% 4% liky EMIU never happens: (6% last week)

Bundesbank member's hint fails to dent EMU confidence

Sceptical remarks yesterday by a member of the Bundesbank's ruling council about the small number of countries that should be allowed into a single currency failed to dent the market's growing conviction

that it will start on time in 1999. Reimut Jochimsen said only those which had been successful in co-ordinating interest rates and keeping inflation down should be included.

He also criticised unnamed German politicians for weakening the strictness of the criteria for joining up - a

statement taken as a hint that

Italy should not join. Alison Cottrell, an economist at Paine Webber, said: "If Helmut Kohl wanted Italy in, it would be difficult for him to have a battle of wills with the Bundesbank."

Italian Communists last week dropped opposition to an austerity budget but Romano Prodi's government was forced to scale down plans to cut pensions and concede a 35-hour working week - putting a question mark-over its ability to meet

IN BRIEF

Ashurst cancels London listing and condemns AIM

Ashurst Technology announced its immediate delisting from the Alternative Investment Market. The move has no effect on the company's listing on the Toronto Stock Exchange or the company's business. Benton H Wilcoxon, chairman and chief executive of Ashurst, said: "In the best interest of our shareholders and the company we strongly believe that delisting from AIM was necessary. Compliance and regulatory issues resulting from a dual listing, poor communication between AIM and our nominated adviser, and the overall ineffectiveness of AIM as a liquid trading market for our shares were our principal reasons." He added: "Although the vast majority of our shareholders reside in the UK and Europe, approximately 125,000 shares have traded on AIM during the 12 months, compared with approximately 13.7 million shares on the TSE. Because shares have at times traded at prices as much as two times higher on AIM than the TSE, it is understandable why UK and European investors have turned their backs on AIM."

Cooper predicts pre-tax loss

Frederick Cooper said that, following a reassessment of the group's asset value, it expected full-year results to show a small loss before tax and operating and non-operating exceptional items. The engineering group also announced that Nicholas Keegan would become finance director, replacing John Staite, who has resigned. KPMG, the chartered accountancy firm, will carry out a full strate-31 July 1997 will be issued following completion of this review.

Grosvenor Inns to sell pubs

Grosvenor Inns is to sell 15 none-core pubs houses to Sirenia for £8.97m, and will dispose of another pub and three wine bars to Chancery for £1.9m. Sirenia is a newly incorporated company established to effect the acquisition of Pubco, 16 public houses and five development sites from Regent Inns and related companies under a related agreement. Grosvenor said the disposals were in line with its strategy to focus solely on the Slug and Lettuce brand. It said there are only four further sales to complete the disposal programme, of which three are currently under contracts for sale. Grosvenor said current sales from the Slug and Lettuce pubs were up by 21.7 per cent, while like-for-like sales were up 9.8 per cent at the end of the first quarter.

£25m deal for ScottishPower

ScottishPower has won a £25m contract to supply electricity to Hyundai's semiconductor plant in Dunfermline. It will meet the plant's electricity needs over three years. In addition, more than £3m worth of electrical engineering work will be carried for Hyundai in a contract won by ScottishPower's electrical contracting business.

Correction

Industrial Metals

In yesterday's issue, Beverley Hodson was wrongly captioned as finance director of WH Smith. She is in fact retail managing director. Martin Broughton was wrongly captioned as chairman of BAT Industries. He is in fact chief executive.

Chg LME stocks Chg

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Escape from the maize: how one farmer plans to reap a puzzling harvest



David Legge, a Herefordshire farmer lias created a huge 8ft-hi

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Brussels

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"All cravel must be booked by Weh November 1997 and completed by 15th December 1997. All travel is subject to availability and restrictions and excludes suspen tra-

Interest Free Time Machine

The Interest Free Time Machine is a high specification state of the art PC system with fast 200+ processor, 4.3Gb Ultra ATA hard drive, 32Mb EDO RAM, 24 speed CD, 3D Wavetable sound, 4Mb SIS graphics and 56K

It also includes colour video camera interface, videophone receive software, IBM GOLD voice recognition, microphone, joystick and massive software bundle all at a truty incredible price.

Top Spec

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☑ 32Mb Ram

4.3Gb Hard drive

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☑ 4Mb SIS **Graphics**

Videophone Receive ☑ Speech

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orly. Product codes: 14° 338; 15° 338; 17° 340

Model
As above but with Intel Pertium 200Miz:
Processor with MMX Technology £148 + VAT. extra = £175.06 Product codes: 14" 341; 15" 342; 17" 348 200M-2 £9.75

EM 6x86 PR200+ Processor (laster than). 165M System based on Intel Pendum 165Mnz with MMX Technology) 32Mb EDO RAM

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Seagate 4.3Gb Ultra ATA Hard Disk
LG 24 speed Max CD-ROM drive
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SIS 64-bit advanced graphics using 4Mb of system RAM, MFEG & Microsoft direct

NidooPhone receive for incoming videophone calls. Video camera Interface
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Speech racognition with IRM Simply
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14° SVSA Ni 4280b colour screen is
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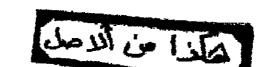
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TRAVEL, LEISURE & SPORT



The Guggenheim effect: Bilbao becomes one of the great sights of Europe



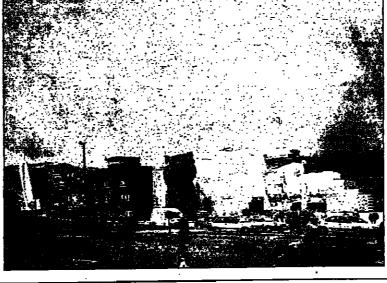
Tonight the King and Queen of Spain will officially open the new Guggenheim gallery in Bilbao – a triumph of bold originality.

Even before it opens, Bilbao's Guggenheim building by the Canadian architect Frank Gehry has had more photo-calls than a supermodel. Not content with taking the world by storm - by breaking out of the modern museumas white-box school - Gefuy has had the audacity to bring his building to a full stop in a folly: a stone tower that has imploded, fallen apart. Inside, there are 19 galleries, nine of them fairly conventional, rectilinear rooms. The other 10 woop and soar with roofs like timbered barus.

Two piles of flowers grow outside the main doors, which are currently sealed by security tapes. One is a 40ft-high sculpture of a Yorkshire terrier by the American artist Jeff Koon, with 60,000 pansies

puncturing its green, fibrous frame and its NONIE NIESEWAND puncturing its green, own internal watering system causing puddles on the limestone piazza. The other is a mound of Cellophanewrapped bouquets

which mark the spot where on Monday a museum guard was shot dead by ETA, the



abandoned, filled with gelignite. Tensions are running high, despite national

PICTURES BY

DENNIS GILBERT

pride in the project which has catapulted a little known place into the international art world. And the council who,

years, has organised this monument to Basque pride hope to attract: 400,000 visitors annually. During the last

decades of the 19th century, the province of Vizcaya and its capital, Bilbao, were industrial-Basque terrorist movement. The guard had ised Franco suppressed the Basque language and stopped a van driven by three men, who shot stripped the Basque provinces of their autono-

ing town ringed with a necklace of green hills it did not have historically beautiful buildings. Now, as Bilbao faces the post-industrial future, this building stands as testimony to a new civic pride. Crucially, the 14,000 million pesetas it cost. came not from the Spanish government but from Basque local taxes and the EU regional fund.

Gehry's

architect's

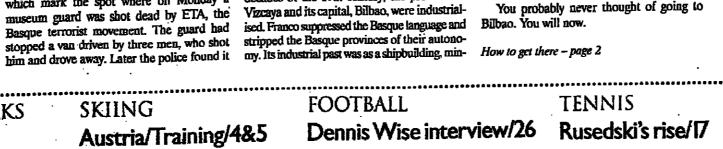
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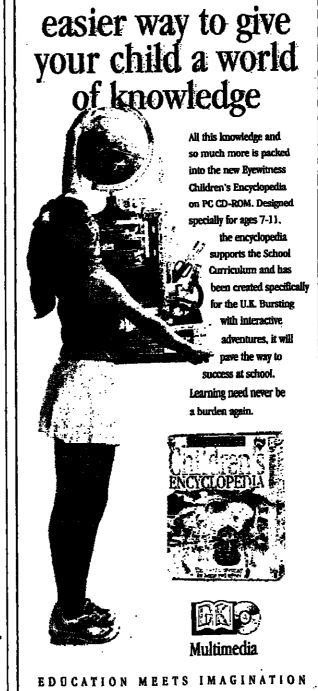
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mould of the nodern white box

In the long Gallery 104, the Basque history of mining and shiphuilding is epically celebrated: Claes Oldenberg's Knife Ship sculpture and Robert Rauschenberg's Barge. Rauschenberg, who has a big show on at the Guggenheim in New York, loves Gehry's building. "It is monumental without overwhelming the art."

You probably never thought of going to





Now there's an

CITY BREAKS Prague/3

SKIING Austria/Training/4&5

Dennis Wise interview/26



CALDER

Bus travel is a form of transport neglected by many, including me - trains and planes are generally much quicker, and these days barely more expensive. But travelling by National Express from Manchester to Carlisle reminded me that it can be fun.

For a start, this is one route where the bus is quicker than the train. The driver ter's call him Bob - ended the safety briefing by saying "There's a hammer for breaking glass, or controlling your children". His colleague Vic served snacks at sub-train buffet prices, and pointed out sights like the "heart of England", a cardiac-shaped grove of trees on a hillside by the M6. Traffic was light, so the promise to phone ahead to make sure connections at Glasgow were held proved unnecessary.

The 135-minute trip was exactly on time and, at £16, cheaper than the train. But it could have cost another 99 pence, had I taken up the offer in Manchester to buy insurance cover.

Every passenger is offered insurance. but what possible use could it be for a journey of just over two hours? (Which I was unlikely to cancel since I bought the ticket five minutes before travelling.) Answers on a bus ticket, please.

When I needed a plane ticket to Mexico City, I chose to travel on KLM via Amsterdam because the Dutch airline offered the cheapest ticket on the day I needed to travel. But for once my "upgrade tie" stayed in the wardrobe.

Here's the theory. An airline will often find itself overbooked in economy, and be obliged to shift some discount travellers into business class. In order not to upset the passengers who've bought premium tickets, the idea is to select vaguely respectable people. Hence the only slightly out-of-fashion tie, which I always carry and don just before checking in.

KLM, though, has put paid to that plan. My ticket, which cost the wrong side of £500, bears the uncompromising. capitalised message "NO UPGRADE".

Why? Perhaps, on a previous trip, I had been spotted skulking about the check-in area trying to look smart. Was my name on a KLM computer under the heading 'Warning: Business Class Imposter"? No. says a spokeswoman for the airline.

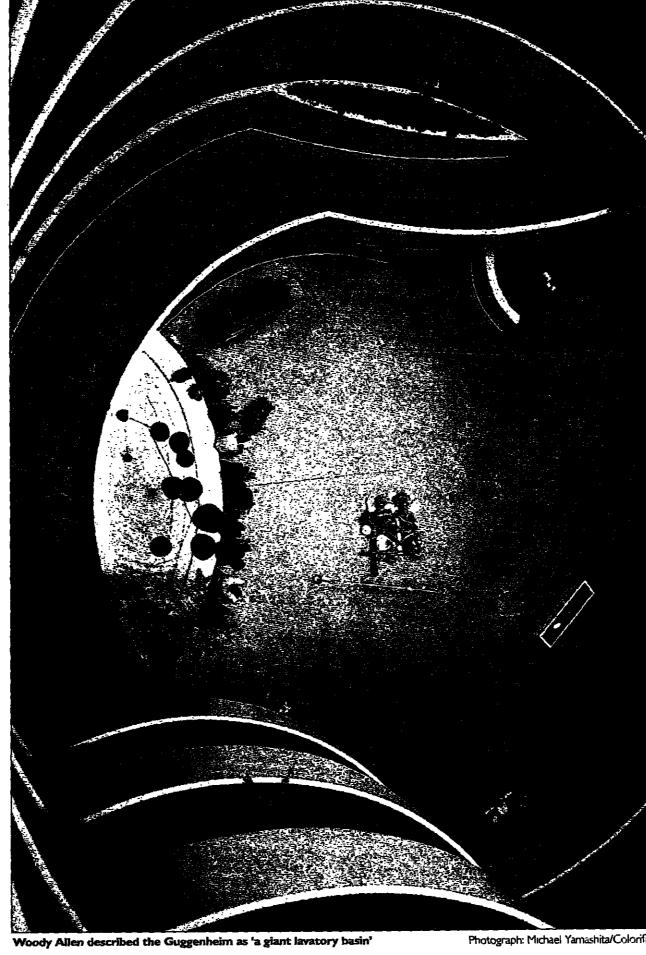
"It's a standard thing on all KLM economy class tickets," she says, "aimed at discouraging passengers from asking for upgrades. KLM has a policy of not upgrading, believing that business-class passengers should get the benefit of any extra space."

An economy class amenity pack awaits anyone who has been upgraded on KLM, if they will share with us all how they did it.

"Do you know," asked my neighbour on a Turkish Airlines flight after we had been immobile on the apron at Istanbul airport for two hours, "why they call the airline

It was the low point of a truly dismal journey. The outward leg had been tiresome enough; when I enquired why the flight was an hour late, the response was "Because it's Friday". Going home, no one seemed to know why the plane was so late (it being Wednesday, the Friday explanation was no longer valid).

The correct answer to my neighbour's question is Turk Hava Yollari, the vernacular for Turkish Airlines. But his answer was funnier: "They hate you."



Photograph: Michael Yamashita/Colorific!

BILBAO BOUND

Where is Bilbao? In 13th place in the Spanish football league, of course. That's the problem afflicting dozens of Continental cities: to a lot of British people, they are of interest only as potential opponents for our boys in European soccer competitions.

Suddenly, though, the new Guggenheim has promoted Bilbao from the lower divisions of touristic attraction to Europe's premier league of weekend breaks. Demand for travel to the Basque city is rocketing. Shortbreak operators compare the level of interest created by the new collection to that generated by a big exhibition such as Van Gogh in Amsterdam or Matisse in Paris.

To visit Bilbao this week for her report, Nonie Niesewand was obliged to pay £430 for a return flight from

Gatwick to Bilbao on British Airways (0345 222111). Lower fares are available on some flights. The Spanish airline Iberia (0171-830 0011) has a special of £173 for its evening flight from Heathrow. For £312, Kirker Holidays (0171-231 3333) is offering two nights in a four-star hotel, including flights on Iberia, airport transfers and admission to the

Guggenheim. Flights take two hours; the boat takes a day and a half to steam from Portsmouth through the Bay of Biscay to Santurtzi, eight miles north of Bilbao. P&O Ferries (0990 980980) makes the voyage twice a week. A mini-cruise. which will allow you five hours ashore harely time to see the Guggenheim costs £59; a five-day return for two people plus a car costs £315.

Europe and the world

World weather yesterday midday (gmt)

To make the most of the region, combine a trip to Bilbao with the rest of the Basque lands. Motorways blast a course along the coastline east and west of Bilbao, but a much more entertaining way to travel is on one of Spain's great narrow-gauge railways. In about four hours, you can wobble along the Basque Railways link to San Sebastian. The line is temporarily disconnected in the middle, though a

bus connection covers the gap. While Bilbao possesses only an apology for a scafront, its rival curls itself around a magnificent bay. Bilbao might have got the Guggenheim, but San Sebastian has the looks. Make sure you visit both cities; as Solomon R Guggenheim never said, "Away goals count double".

Simon Calder

Art meets life on an upward spiral

just one of four world-class galleries in New York's swanky Upper East Side. Hamish Mykura says it's the people, more than the art, that make it memorable.

"My optimistic ziggurat", was architect Frank Lloyd Wright's phrase for his big, white, wonky concrete spiral of an art gallery when it sleek and opinionated residents of the Upper East Side have been less kind to it over the years. Woody Allen called it "a giant lavatory basin" and Jackie Onassis hated it to the last.

But it's still the New York gallery where you're most likely to see Woody Allen, and Alastair Cooke is a near neighbour. On its site facing Central Park, the swirling cartoon of a building mocks the heavy Victorian apartment blocks that stretch away to either side of it. The stretch of Fifth Avenue that runs south from the Guggenheim at 89th Street along the edge of Central Park is the prime location for two of New York's most popular and rewarding pastimes: looking at art, and looking at people.

The Guggenheim has three big competitors on the Upper East Side: the Whitney, the Frick and the between them passes the homes of the most well-heeled and aspirational New Yorkers. Watching the complicated rituals that govern their overstuffed days is a fascinating pastime.

The Guggenheim is the most acutely fashionable of the four galleries. Visitors are squeezed through the entrance beneath a heavy concrete beam to emerge into the breathtaking central atrium, where the sweeping spiral ramp of the gallery winds in widening loops to the high skylights above. Here, socialites and tourists rub shoulders. Spotted in the shop – a midwestern Chagal's Green Violinist, asking "Do you have this in yellow?"

Meanwhile the little restaurant below the gallery is, on weekdays, an ideal spotting ground for the rich: thin, manicured ladies-wholunch, the "social X-rays" Tom Wolfe described in Bonfire of the Vanities. A pleasant afternoon can be spent listening to the loud exchange of confidences about boyfriends, graded according to value of jewellery received, while watching them push a piece of lettuce and a sliver of goat's cheese around their plates.

The ramp is the truly great feature of the gallery. Thronged with quarter of a mile to form the main rotunda. Children love it, and harassed Saturday dads struggle to control their hyperactive six-year-olds. At the top of the ramp the edge wall gets alarmingly low. Stepping back Spm, you pay what you wish.

The Guggenheim Museum is to admire a picture, a glance over your shoulder can induce headswimming vertigo.

There are three best times to visit the Upper East Side. Stroll in the park about 7am, well before the gallery opens, when the east side of the park comes alive as a wave of single young professionals emerge from their tiny, expensive apartments with their tiny, expensive dogs for the first big chat-up opportunity of the day. The dogs are the catalyst for get-to-know-you opened on 5th Avenue in 1959. The doggy talk - isn't he cute? - and there are brisk arrangements to. meet again tomorrow. Four o'clock on weekdays is another fine spectacle. At the park entrance near 68th Street, clusters of Filipina nannies kitted out by their employers in Victorian-style starched blackand-white uniforms rock babies in top-of-the-range prams. The mothers and fathers, meanwhile, are just two thirds of the way through their stressed, Wall Street days. On Saturday afternoons the Guggenheim museum is a central part of the City's Sunday improve-yourself ritual of morning workout, brunch, art gallery, dinner, movie. And the place swarms. Each of the other galleries at-

tracts a crowd to match the art on. display. The Whitney Museum of American art has heavy concrete, serious exhibitions and visitors wearing hats, black polo-necks and Metropolitan Museum. The walk earnest frowns. The huge Metropolitan Museum of art, sprawling into Central Park with three and a half million artworks, is so popular at weekends it becomes a sort of over-run art theme park. The Frick collection was the art-packed mansion of a union-busting coal baron, Henry Clay Frick. It still has the furniture and courtyards and playing fountains, and curiously is rarely visited by New Yorkers. With its crowd of international visitors it's hard to believe that the grinding traffic of Fifth Avenue is just a few feet away on the other side of the wall.

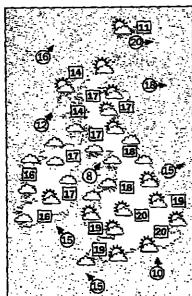
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But the Guggenheim remains the tourist holding a print of Marc most dazzling of the Upper East Side galleries, if not always the best place to see pictures. Works displayed here struggle to compete with the marvellous distraction of the building that houses them. In 1992, when the museum reopened after extensive renovation and the building of a new extension, it was relaunched with an exhibition by Dan Flavin, who specialises in illuminating works of architecture. Freshly painted and washed with Flavin's pastel neon, critics again acclaimed the central rotunda as an artwork to rival the works that hang in it. The crowds that throng the spiral gallery can be more interesting still.

visitors, it spirals upward for a The Guggenheim Museum (001 212 423 3500) is on Fifth Avenue at 89th Street. It opens daily except Thursday; 🕌 from 10am to 6pm Sunday-Wednesday, 10am-8pm Friday and Saturday. Admission \$15; on Fridays from 6-

WEATHER



The British Isles

General summary and outlook:

Most parts of the UK will have a dry and rather warm day. Over England and Wales banks of mist, fog. and low cloud during the morning will gradually lift, and most places should have a fine afternoon with long spells of hazy sunshine, but a few spots in the Midlands and eastern England may stay misty into the afternoon. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have variable cloud and bright periods, with patchy light rain in southern Scotland slowly dying away.

Tomorrow, most of the UK will be dry and warm with some hazy sunshine after the gradual clearance of morning tog and low cloud, but some places could stay misty all day. During Monday and Tuesday the northern half of Britain will turn colder but should stay dry, whereas the southern half of the country will become less settled with a growing threat of rain. It will be colder in southern districts as well by mid-week.

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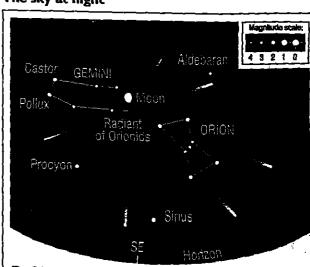
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Out and about with AA Road-watch cal 0336 401 for me latest local and national traffic news. Source

Sun and moon

New Moon: October 31

The sky at night



The Orionid meteor shower radiates from a point on the Orion/ Gemini border. This chart shows the position of the Moon and the horizon at 3 a.m. on Tuesday 21 October.

Anyone out and about after midnight and before dawn in the next few days has a chance of spotting meteors from the Orionic shower. The peak day for the shower is Tuesday (21st), and the most likely time to see a handful of meteors is just before dawn, when the radiant is well up in the sky. Unfortunately, the waning gibbous Moon has conspired against meteor spotters. In the moonlit sky, only the brighter shooting star trails will be apparent. However, shower meteors can streak across a very wide area of sky even though their tracks will all seem to radiate from a spot on the border between Orion and Gemini. The bits of cosmic debris responsible for this shower have been scattered through space by Halley's comet, which is at present far too remote to be visible somewhere between Uranus and Neptune.

Jacqueline Mitton

It's hard to attract attention in Prague's Old Town, where you're surrounded by some of Europe's most beautiful architecture

48 hours in the life of ... Prague

If you're in search of a short cut to the soul of a city, follow Dominic O'Reilly's itinerary for a two-day break in the Czech capital.

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Why go now? Because Prague autumn, while not quite offering the cultural delights of Prague spring, is a better het than Prague winter - a prescription for bronchial problems. The brown coal heating system used in the city produces a smog of South East Asian proportions. So go now while some of Europe's most beautiful architecture is still visible.

Beam down

Czech Airlines (0171-255 1366) has a fare of £205 daily from Heathrow, with a World Offer of £237. Ruzyne airport is north-west of the capital.

The minibus into the city centre takes 20 minutes and costs 90 crowns (£1.80).

Get your bearings

The minibus will drop you at Namesti Republiky (Republic Square) on the eastern edge of the Old Town. It is part of the Golden Triangle of streets that make up the shopping district. Down the road is Wenceslas Square, site of the 1989 Velvet Revolution and home to numerous tourist information offices, and Old Town Square.

Check in

The Hotel Axa (00 420 2 2481 2580) on Na Porici, a five-minute walk east of Republic Square Charles Bridge and the Castle. The tram then has double rooms with breakfast for £58; it also crosses the river and runs up near the Castle. Behas a fitness centre and pool.

U Medvidku, just around the corner from the Lunch on the run National Theatre and the river at 7 Na Perstyne, (00 420 2 2421 1916) translates as At the Little Czech cuisine. Double rooms with breakfast cost bious sausages sold in street kiosks. £25 a night, singles £18.

The Hotel Forum at 1 Kongresova (just by Vysehrad metro station) has a weekend special rate of £80, single or double; book through Inter-Continental reservations on 0345 581444.

Take a hike

Stroll into Old Town Square shortly before the hour to take up a good position in front of the Astronomical Clock. It chimes out a medieval morality tale with skeletons and bell ringers. Walk up towards the Charles Bridge and count the seven spans. (The statues are actually copies.) From there, stroll up the hill and through the narrow (including tax) return from Stansted or lanes that were once symbolic of old Prague but Heathrow. British Airways (0345 222111) flies are now full of souvenir shops, until you reach Stroll along V

Actually, it is more of a stately home than a fortress but there are wonderful gardens, an impressive cathedral and the bones of Good King Wenceslas. Again, on the hour, there is the changing of the guard - but don't expect it to be done with the smoothness of the British. Dropped rifles and sniggers are commonplace amongst the conscripts dressed in the elaborate red-and-blue uniforms designed by a theatre friend of President Vaclay Havel.

Take a ride Pick up tram 18 at Karlovo Namesti (Charles Square) and ride down Narodni trida by the National Theatre, and along the Smetana Embankment by the river - the best view of the

Saffir Grill, off Wenceslas Square at 12 Havel-

ska Street, is a Lebanese eaterie that offers good Bears. It is a Budvar inn with great beer and good falafel and such delights - far better than the du-

Cultural afternoon

See how the capital developed at the Museum of the City of Prague, 52 Na Porici (nearest metro Florence). Open 9am-6pm daily except Monday. Admission, about 50p. Right now, the main exhibition is Prague motifs in the work of painter Miloslav Holy. Take a look and then see the subjects for real as you walk round. Or take a leaflet promoting classical music in the churches of Old Town. Or ask for tickets at the National Theatre on Narodni - opera, ballet or music, it doesn't matter. The decor is the most important part.

Stroll along Wenceslas Square to number 21, ignore the shop underneath and take the escalator to the sixth floor. In the Fromin cafe/bar and restaurant, you will have a wonderful view of the city and an even better one of its new middle classes. A great place for people watching and worth staying on for dinner, too. If you go now, you may catch the last drops of burcak, a white wine. It is like Beaujolais nouveau in that it is a young wine but tastes much better.

For a more Czech way of doing it, wander into any bar and order a "pivo". The Czechs drink more beer than anyone else in the world and a couple of sips will show you why. This time of year, a Pardubice Porter provides excellent insulation against a cold wind.

A couple of years ago, Prague offered a selecware of pickpockets; this route is a favourite baunt. Now there is every type of cuisine imaginable.

For a romantic, and excellent, international meal try Kampa Park at the edge of the Charles Bridge on the Castle side. The seafood is best. An outside table gives a great view of the illuminated bridge. Afterwards, walk up to the castle for the best night-time view of the city.

Sunday morning: go to church St Vitus's cathedral in the castle offers services at about 9am on Sunday but, for something slightly more elaborate, try the Orthodox Cathedral of Saints Cyril and Methodius on Reslova Street, by Karlovo Namesti metro station. Aside from its historic opulence, there is the curiosity of services in Czech, Greek, English and Old Slavonic. More information on service time in The Prague Post.

Bracing brunch

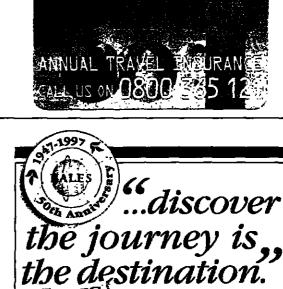
The Obecni dum (Municipal House) on Na Prikope in the Old Town has just re-opened after three years of renovations. Now in all its Art Deco glory, it has a splendid French café.

A walk in the park

Ride the Metro's red line to Nadrazi Holesovice, its northernmost station. There are signs for Vystaviste, the exhibition ground built for an emperor's jubilee. If there's not a funfair on, there's bound to be a market. From there follow the signs for Troja Island; summer sees show jumping in the grounds of a chateau, in winter stroll around the gardens and the zoo.

Czechs are skilled makers and manipulators of marionettes. The Sunday market in Old Town Square is the place to witness the widest choice. Or see the experts do it at the Puppet Theatre; students hand out leaflets in Old Town Square listing performance times.



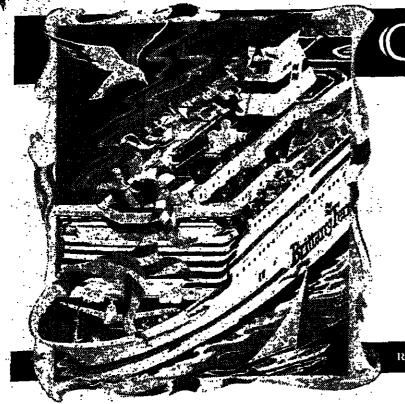


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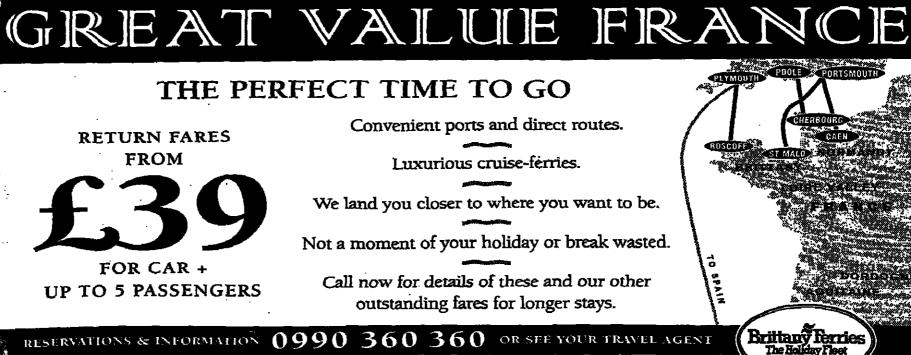
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High season, low tech

You don't need such hi-tech facilities as lifts and cable cars to go skiing - with the right equipment you can simply ciamber up the mountains. Richard Holledge goes touring at the tiny Austrian resort of Kuhtai.

It was the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I, no less, who put the tiny Austrian resort of Kuhtai on the map in the 15th century. He used to bring his entourage up the pass to take pot shots at the chamois which nimbled along the mountain crags.

There are still chamois shyly lurking above the pass, but the pride of place as far as animals are concerned is taken by a crw. It stands peaceably in the main street. Well, the only street, actually. It's stuffed. It's on wheels and it seemed wholly appropriate to a resort which, by the middle of April, radiated a gentle, slightly tired, fin de saison calm. The few package holiday-makers had gone, a gaggle of enthusiasts had driven up from Innsbruck attracted by the sun, the late, lingering snow and the freedom from lift queues.

Why did I end up here and not in one of the bigger, higher, altogether more glamorous resorts? The luxury of Lech, the rackety appeal of Kitzbühel, the sophistication of St Anton.

Kuhtai has only seven lifts and fewer than 20 places to stay. Straddling a mountain pass, it is only 45 minutes from Innsbruck airport (the return journey took only 35 minutes because the minibus driver was late for another fare) and we had decided to go touring - clambering up mountains on skis. The joy of that is that it doesn't matter how big the resort is, or how many lifts there are. All you need are mountains and proper gear.

The equipment these days makes going uphill a breeze. The skis are shorter than



downhill skis and have a binding which adjusts to let your heel rise and fall as you trudge up. The steeper the climb the higher you adjust the heel rest so that the movement between foot and leg is kept to a minimum. Above all, the seal skins which attach to the underneath of the ski grip the mountain side with the tenacity of a limpet. If the skis are kept flat it is virtually im-

A gaggle of chattering housewives swept uphill past me as if they were going to the

to wish me "Gruss Gott", and waved cheerily as they bounded back down the mountain in time for Sunday lunch.

You get very hot going up, but even in April it is very cold at the top. The wind whips round your woollies and freezes your hands as you fumble in the rucksack for emergency rations of chocolate and

The point of going up is the coming down. We take off the skins, carry our skis

shops. They even had enough breath left around an outcrop and swoop down a virgin slope with a surface as lumpy as an alligator's skin. Round another corner and we are whizzing over corrugated traverses, then into soft snow and finally we are forced to take off our skis for a stumble through the shrubs and little streams.

We pause for breath in the valley. The sound of silence is broken only by the cawing of a crow. One purple crocus is bravely showing through the newly revealed, bedraggled grass.

We were ready for more adventures until a blizzard broke that evening. The little community shuddered in the blast. The stuffed cow was blown over. We huddled in the lee of the buildings as we searched

for a little light night life. We awoke to find fresh snow and brilliant sunshine. Touring? On a day like this? Probably not - missing the point in our eagerness to be on the slopes, that a climb into the empty distance would have been a spectacular experience. Anyway our

Far from the maddening crowds: touring mixes uphill with downhill and keeps the hordes in your wake

guide for the day looked as if he too had discovered the village's night life. Indeed it looked as if he had been the night life.

There was no way we could miss out on a sunny day with new snow. Exit touring, enter the untrammeled delights of skiing off piste. It doesn't matter how good you are. The joy is skiing on untouched domain. trekking across to a valley or bowl which you have gazed longingly at from the chair lift and finding yourself floundering happily through unskied snow.

It feels like an adventure, you can't hear the racket of the lifts or the shouts of the skiers. And there is a fantastic sense of achievement when you reach the bottom - one way or another - red-faced with exertion and look back up the hill at the tracks left in the snow. And the great splodge where you fell over.

Sitting in the restaurant wolfing down great mounds of ribs and sauerkraut and gallons of red wine, you can afford yourself the little glow of self-satisfaction which comes with the knowledge that, not only have you been on top, but you've been where no man has been before. That morning, anyway.

There are no longer any scheduled flights to Innsbruck from the UK. Air UK (0345 666777), which used to fly the route from Stansted, now offers connections from a range of British airports via Amsterdam.

Swissair and Tyrolean Airways (0171–434 7300) can get you from Heathrow to Innsbruck via Zurich for £224 return, including tax. Or fly from Gatwick to Salzburg on Lauda Air (0171-630 5924) for £202. From Salzburg rent a car (driving time is two and a half hours) or take a train from Salzburg to Innsbruck (two hours) and then a bus.

Few operators feature packages to Kuhtai; two that do are Inghams (0181-780 4444)

and Alpine Tours (01227 454177) Austrian Tourist Board: 0171-629 1461.

Eurostar Paris hotel break from just £85



The Independent and Independent on Sunday, in association with Driveline Europe have arranged a special Autumn break in Paris offer. This special break is available to you from as little as £85pp and you have a choice of five 2** hotels in which to stay.

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The offer is valid for travel between 24th Oct and 14th Dec 1997, and between 8th Jan and 12th Feb 1998.

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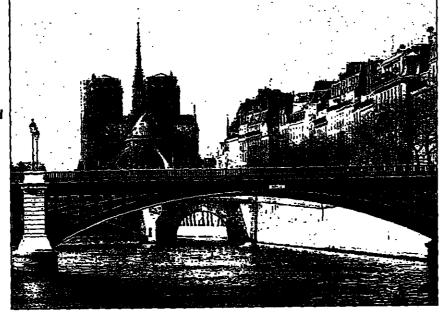
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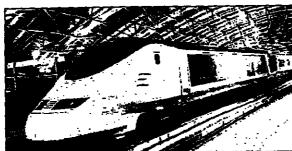
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Times above refer to Mon/Fri, fewer services run Sat/Sun.

Terms and conditions as previously published

GREEN CHANNEL

Toilet stories are always popular with travellers and the British media, so when the route to Everest became known as the "Kleenex Trail" in the Eighties because of all the toilet paper left behind by trekkers, the story struck a

crude chord in the public imagination. In fact, toilet tissue was but one of the Himalayas' many problems. Along with the 300,000-plus tourists visiting Nepal annually - a quarter of whom go trekking - come sewage-polluted rivers, mini mountains of non-biodegradable rubbish, deforestation, erosion and landslides. A group of 12 trekkers will use as much fuel in one day as would keep a Nepalese family warm and fed for 10 days.

Such bad publicity has done some good however. The Himalayan Tourist Code was drawn up in 1990 - a collaborative effort between tour operators in the UK and Nepal and environmentalists, co-ordinated by the British pressure group Tourism Concern. The code suggests burning or burying waste, carrying out non-biodegradable litter, not making open fires, and staying in lodges where kerosene stoves are used.

"The Nepalese have tried very hard to clean up trails and now you see little evidence of rubbish," says Angela Kalisch, trek leader with the British tour operator, High Places, "Operators do implement the code and there are

Nepalese environmental projects like the Annapurna Conservation Area Project which are exemplary."

The British Mountaineering Council is now drafting a broader code and guidelines for trekkers, mountaineers and expedition operators. "One of the main things tourists can do is ask questions of their operators - for instance how waste is dealt with," says the Council. "The longer the explanation you get the better."

Sue Wheat

For the British Mountaineering Council advice sheet, call 0161-445 4747; for a copy of the Himalayan Tourist Code call Tourism Concern on 0171-753 3330.

RED CHANNEL

A compendium of hazards facing the traveller. This week warnings about the Indian sub-continent from the Foreign Office (0171-238 4503).

Sri Lanka: On 15 October, a bomb left in a truck exploded next to a hotel in central Colombo, killing at least In people and woulding over 150. This is the first serious incident in Colombo for 15 months. Further incidents cannot be ruled out. Visitors should minimise the time they spend in the city.

Fighting between the security forces and the Tamil Tigers (LTTE) continues in the north and cast of the country. The south and centre of the island, including all the main tourists areas and the Cultural Triangle, remain unaffected. But there have been incidents in the Yala National Park.

Bangladesh: The political situation is tense. Rallies, demonstrations and strikes have taken place nationwide and are likely to continue. There may be

occasional outbreaks of violence. Visitors should avoid political gatherings

and other crowded areas. Poor driving, vehicle maintenance and unlit or poorly lit buses and lorries are the cause of frequently subject to nighttime armed banditry. Passenger trains and long-distance buses are sometimes targetted by organised gangs of thieves. Avoid travel after dark.

New arrivals should register with the High Commission in Dhaka; telephone

DESTINATION KILIMANJARO

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Later this year we shall be operating the first non-scheduled flight service from Landon Gatwick to Kill-manjaro-the gateway to the great game parks of Africa. The service, in being direct, presents the traveller with a convenient means of witnessing the wildlife wonders of the great parks at a remarkably low price that represents a saving of many hundreds of pounds from the tariffs normally available and without the tedium

the taritis normany available and without the reuting of routing via other countries. Should you have always wanted to visit these wonderful locations but have been dissuaded by the high cost, then this is an opportunity that should not be missed. As we are initially limiting the available places to just 20 per departure it is essential that early telephone reservations are made to avoid disappoi

Itinerary in Brief Fly by Monarch Airlines Boeing 757 via Luxor to Kilimanjaro airport 30 miles from Arusha, the gateway to the great game parks such as the Serengeti. Manyara, Arusha, Tarangire and the Ngorongoro Crater. Our hotel is the Mt Meru Novotel at the foot of Mt Meru situated in 15 acres of lush gardens. The InSiguestruones and suites come with full facilities and air-conditioning. The hotel is under European management and boasts three restaurants, a number of bars and a lounge.



Optional Excursions

Mt Kilimanjaro & Arusha Park - full day £75. Manyara - full day £105. Ngorungoro Crater - full day £135. Tarangire Park - full day £105. The Serengeti - 2 days £250,

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES

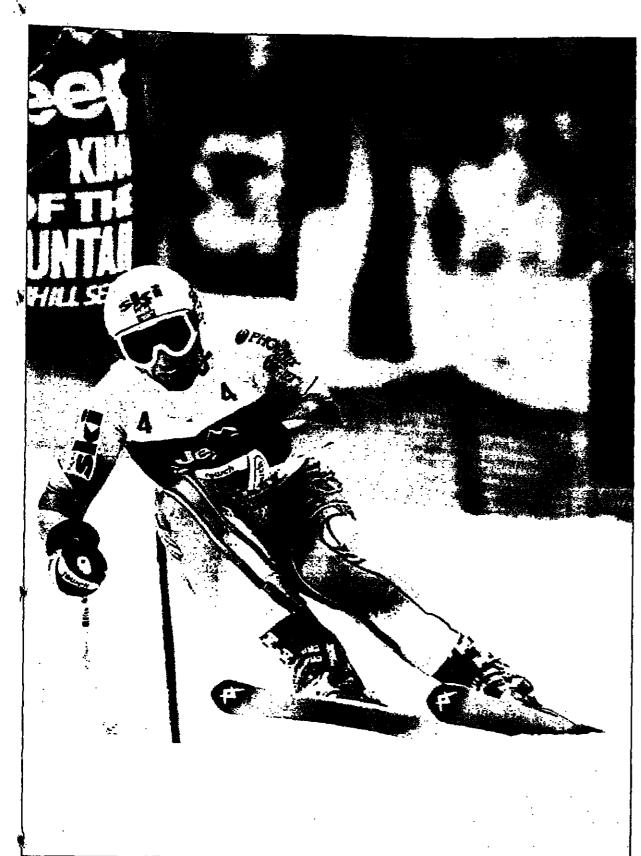
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What a carve-up: video star Martin Bell cuts a figure

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Carving's not for turkeys

If you're hoping to cut it on the slopes this season. says Stephen Wood, it's time to turn on the TV and get up to speed.

Last season, you could get away with it. Carving skis were the new thing, and the admission that you had never carved a turn would provoke sympathy rather than disdain. But this season they have become the only thing: look around the equipment shops and you will struggle to find a ski that does not have the characteristic broad tip and tail and the narrow "hourglass" waist beneath the binding. Alongside the racks of skis are "carving" boots; and, since anything that doesn't carve just won't cut it now, there is "carying" skiwear, too.

Face it: you want to be on you rent rather than buy they are the obvious choice, because all the new stock in hire shops will be carving skis (and any tradiseason's wear on them). But how can you get up to speed with the will stock at least one of this season's three new videos on carving technique, all priced between £14 and £15. I have watched them all, and at least one is worth buying.

The principle of carving skis is very simple. The wide tip and tail dig into the snow when you to make a turn; at the same time and therefore more flexible - will hend. And because it is cut inwards at either side of the waist, the middle section of the ski's edge can move outwards before it comes into contact with the

Since all these videos are full

fer one of my own. Say you placed a wooden ruler on its edge on your desk, canted it away from you at an angle of about 45 degrees to the desk-top. and then tried to push the middie to bend it. You would not succeed, because the edge would be in contact with the desk along the ruler's whole length. But the middle part of a "waisted" ruler could be pushed, until that part was touching the desk. It would bend ... just as a carving ski presents a curved edge to the and cross-channel ferries.)

of "helpful" analogies, let me of-hour, about 20 minutes longer and deals almost exclusively than the other two - but that's with body angles, the key to because, apart from the re-runs carved turns. As Britain's most the other 13 sponsoring companies, the producer failed to find

Face it: you want to be on carving skis this season... they are the obvious choice

carving skis this season. Even if snow, so that - as all the videos say - it "makes the turn for you". The ruler analogy may be difficult to grasp, but it's better carving technique. It makes the than nothing - which is what you tional pair will have at least a get from the three videos. Although they deal with a new skiing technology, none of them are applicable to carving skis. And it lays the right emphasis on technique for using them? Well. bothers to explain how it works. the equipment shops have an- The Ultimate Learning Experiother product for you; most ence 2, a "definitive guide to convinced that holding a threecarving", opens with the bold claim that it will provide "a comprehensive run-down on exactly what carving skis are, and which are the right ones for anyone's hody angle.

It does neither. Nor does it deal properly with "angulation", an essential part of carving put the ski on its edge and ap- technique because it is what enand clear (he talks about skiing, ply pressure through your boot ables the skier to put pressure not power steering or diving). on the skis. Instead, the video the waist - which is narrower, stresses skills (such as "pole plant positioning") which are marginal to carving, and pursues analogies which range from the obscure (goalkeeping, diving) to the misleading (motorcycling).

At least the analogies in Ski

Tips 5: Curving Skis are more transparent. This video lasts an

of clips from earlier Ski Tips, so successful Olympic skier, Bell much time is spent featuring the also has the skill to demonstrate products of its sponsors. Drawbeautifully the correct applicaing a comparison between carvtion of carving techniques ing skis and a car's power and, vividly, what happens if they steering may not be very helpful, are applied incorrectly. The but at least it justifies footage of sponsors' names (apart from the four-wheel drive vehicle prothe ski manufacturer's logo, vided by one sponsor. (Unforwhich has a cameo role) appear tunately for a ferry line, one of only in the credits; and the production values make it look - unusually in this company - more bends. When it does so, the ski a parallel between carving skis like a TV programme than a home video.

angulation - although I am not

legged stool against the but-

presenter does in one sequence)

is an instructive way to improve

ten by Bell himself, is confident

Much the best of the three

stretched to fill a 40-minute video with the basics of carving technique. By the end he loses the plot, wandering into an equipment shop, visiting the gym, and doing some grass-skiing before a snow-ball fight finale - almost as embarrassing as the "dinner party" at the end of But set amongst all the prod-Ski Tips 5, in which the presenuct placement, the video does inter toasts the hotel that has clude some useful stuff on provided board and lodging for himself and his crew. It's a pity that, as well as all point that, contrary to popular belief, basic skiing skills such as snowploughing and sliding turns

the fillers and advertisements that are featured, none of these videos spared a couple of minutes to explain what a carving ski actually does. Still, you don't have to buy a video to understand that. You've got a ruler, tocks while making a turn (as the haven't you?

But even Martin Bell is

'Carving Skills with Martin Bell', £14.99 from Paul Paley Productions (0171-229 7712).

videos is Caning Skills with Mar-'Ski Tips 5', £13.99 from Maverik Productions (01273 325260). tin Bell. The commentary, writ-'The Ultimate Learning Experience 2', £14.99 from Ski S&S (01442 266449)

A midnight tryst with a voodoo witch

In the final part of his voyage up the Mississippi, Matthew Brace slips into New Orleans's twilight zone.

I hid in the darkness of the back seat of a taxicab creeping through the streets of New Orleans at midnight. Outside, on the corner of Bourbon and Conti, the faces of the drunk and the stoned gurned at me through the open window. Their sweaty checks reflected the red and green neon of the French Quarter strip bars and the crawfish diners. A big-legged woman bumped against the cab door and shuffled off down the street. I watched her denim hotpants struggling to contain her buttocks as she walked. Someone dressed as an alligator was trying to coax me out of the cab and into a Cajun music bar by waving a reptilian hand at me. The zydeco sounded foottappingly good but I had a date. We lurched on, picking up speed as we left the decadence behind. A hot, wet wind blew on my face through the window and lifted the strands of my hair that had matted and stuck to my forchead.

The cab dropped me on North Rampart Street, the frayed hem of the French Quarter's skirts. I found an iron gate protecting the Voodoo Spiritual Temple and waited for my priestess, wondering if I had pushed my luck a little far by arranging to meet her at the witching hour.

Miriam Chamani is the Queen Mother and founder of the temple. She has been

here since 1990 when she arrived penniless but "full of the spirit" with her husband, a Belizean "obeahman" or herbal healer. She did not come with the intention of establishing a temple but knew she was destined to do religious work of some sort. Now she is the Witch Queen of New Orleans and divides her time between sacrificing things and showing tourists around the

temple. Miriam's assistant led me to a courtyard where I sat under three Christmas oaks. Miriam walked silently across the flagstones, past me and into the temple's ante-room. She was rubbing her eyes and clearly had been sleeping. I felt guilty for interviewing her at this hour. She said she



didn't mind and with the casual air of a dinner party host handing round sherry and pretzels she brought out a foot-high candle and a frying-pan full of fizzing, smoking

Engulfed in the sweet smoke I tried to draw from her the secret of voodoo. Either the incense, the late hour or the crushing fatigue that I had built up over the past five

weeks travelling non-stop down 2,500 miles of the Mississippi prevented my brain from computing her explanations. I just about grasped her thoughts on the circularity of things (good and evil, light and dark, etc, etc) and I agreed with her deucis about the afterlife - that our ancestors' spirits are all around us. I had hoped she would tell me that was true. But the higher realms of "grisgris" as they call voodoo in New Orleans, sailed over my head and up into the lower branches of the oaks. I was baffled by the Versatile Order of Divinity and the Invisible

Miriam took me in to see the temple. In two small rooms lit only by candles were altars covered with offerings to ancestors and to the Gods. Half-full cups of black coffee. their residue caked to the china; glass ashtrays criss-crossed with the grey fingers of burned-out cigarettes; macabre dolls; strings of coloured Mardi Gras pearls, and grotesque African wood masks. Dollar bills were tucked into glasses and paperclip boxes and stuffed behind sepia photographs showing finely dressed descendants on sunny afternoons grinning for the camera. Everything was covered with a film of dust and dried splashes of candle wax. It was more like a proud, bereaved grandmother's treasure trove than the temple of a much-

maligned religion. "It is unfair to say that voodoo is evil. It isn't. We believe in many good things, like respecting your elders and doing good to people while you are alive," said Miriam.
"The rituals are important. Our ancestors

need sustenance and that is the best way to feed them. We give an offering to the Gods before we cat."

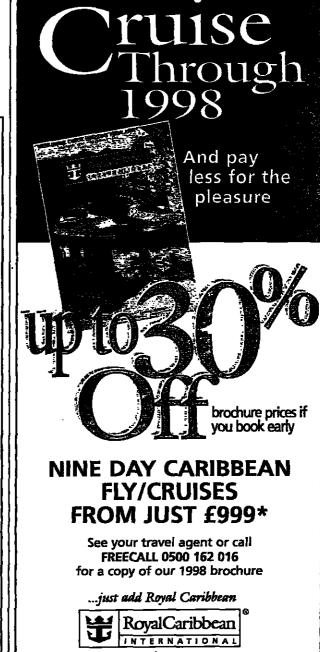
Miriam had a certain magic about her, a calming influence that was a pleasure to eyes. She made me feel safe. Outside the window of the temple was one of the most decadent cities on Earth but in Miriam's temple was peace.

I asked her if she had a spell to silence a noisy neighbour and she laughed. "In New Orleans everybody has a noisy neighbour." she said. "You need to find out his name and talk to him indirectly through a mirror in your apartment - tell him his music is beautiful but not at 2 o'clock in the morning. He is a lonely soul. He is being noisy because he wants friendship, that is all."

I had expected her to impart to me the secrets of some wicked spell but instead she had nothing but compassion and sympathy in her thoughts. I left Miriam with the scent of incense in my hair, a love potion recipe in my pocket and my faith in humanity at least partly restored.

A few hours later at dawn, I went down to the Mississippi for the last time. I had followed this beautiful river from its source in Lake Itasca, Minnesota. In five weeks I had got to know it well. It had become a friend. I brushed an empty bottle of nasal decongestant from a rock by the scummy waterline and sat down to say my goodbyes.

I felt privileged that I had known this mighty river and was sad to leave it. I felt full of the spirit of the Mississippi.





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The non-stop flight to Australia has yet to be launched. So, to make the inevitable stopover more fruitful, Diana Pepper checks out the check-ins - comparing duty free prices for one litre of Smirnoff vodka, a carton of Mariboro cigarettes and a 60ml bottle of White Linen perfume.

Dubai International Airport is close to the city. Taxis cost £2-£3 and take 15-20 minutes. Look for the official Dubai transport cabs, cream-coloured with a green circufar logo on the side, as they are the only metered ones. There is no departure tax. so a quick journey to the souk is worthwhile.

Dubai's reputation as a great, albeit small, duty free airport still holds good. It offers a wide selection of perfume and cosmetics as well as electronic goods and gold jewellery. Toys are also reasonably priced but check the quality, as some don't match up to British safety standards. Perfume cost E27.93. cigarettes £8.92, and vodka £5.05.

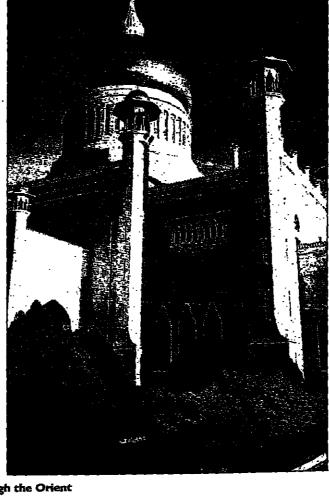
Chill out at the Transit Hotel bar and restaurant which provides a quieter area for a nap. A beer and sandwich cost £1.61.

Kai Tak International, Hong Kong. A hus ride from the airport on to Hong Kong Island is a spin at charge 170 A series of perfume didn't sit lounge is incredibly noisy with a TV at land is a snip at about £1.70. A taxi costs £10 for the four-mile journey, from next year, the new airport out at Chek Lap Kok will require a much longer journey.

With Hong Kong's reputation for barwell stocked. Sadly not. Things have improved in recent years but the range of goods is still limited. I was unable to buy to the clean, large and well organised airmy choice of vodka or perfume. Cigarettes cost £8.47, Absolut Vodka £8.90 and 100ml of Pleasures perfume £47.67. It is likely to for £12.50 per person for two hours' worth take over an hour just to clear customs and collect luggage on arrival and you need the fortable, quiet surroundings, with television, same again to check in.

Departure tax is £8.47. There is a large departure lounge with sleep-friendly bench seats, Showers are available. A beer and sandwich costs £5.97, and a coffee £1.86.





Photographs: Diana Pepper

Towers of power; some of the views on an express journey through the Orient

How far do you have to go to get a bargain?

of the city centre, but travel time depends on the traffic which is among the worst in the airport as many drivers don't speak English or know their way around. Offer to pay gain buys, you'd think its airport would be extra (50p) on the set fare of £4.50 to take the tollway and speed things up.

so best check into the First Class Lounge gested. Taxi fare costs £7.50 each way. of complimentary refreshments. Commagazines and an electronic massage chair. Similar facilities are available in the sive. You can buy cheap shoes, toys, gold Business Class Lounge for £7.50. If you fan- and Batik wear. There are also Malay del-

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of vodka and perfume were not available the world. Best to take a pre-paid taxi from and goods were limited. Cigarettes cost £7, Absolut Vodka £8. Departure tax £6.25.

Sultan Abdul Azis Syah Airport, Kuala Lumpur. It only takes half an hour to trav-Unless you have half a day to spare, stick el 15 miles into central KL, but the Malays are modernising the airport approach so port. A beer will set you back £9 plus tax allow longer on return as traffic can be con-

Yet why leave? There may be no day rooms and only basic shower facilities, but this airport was my favourite. The shopping centre in departures is large and impres-

Shopping here is not great. My choice and sandwich cost about £4. Perfume £32.57, cigarettes £6.36, vodka £7.63.

Malaysia is keen to promote it's dedimail upstairs at the modern Internet café or £17.18 for up to twelve hours. at a cost of 51p for the first two minutes. (I should add, though, that the message I sent to The Independent failed to arrive.)

Brunei International Airport is 10 miles outside the capital, Bandar Seri Bagawan. The trip into town takes only 15 minutes and costs £12- a pleasant change from the chaos of some of the cities above. There's little traffic. no pollution and plenty of trees, gardens and an unobscured view of the local architecture without a skyscraper in sight. The cy a proper sleep, hotel-type day rooms with icacies and cooking ingredients. Real shark airport is quaint and the shopping area tiny. en suite bathroom and television are fins range from £30.53 to £72.01. an es-

include my choice, but Chanel No 5 100ml cost £40.79. Cigarettes cost £5.95. Still got time to kill? Check into the day room down-

Ninoy Aquino airport, Manila is a nightmare; the crowds in arrivals are three deep. Apparently it is always like this. You're hustled from the moment you step outside to take an airport car or a limo. These are expensive (£20) but if you are in a hurry are more reliable and quicker than cabs. Metered taxis, you are told, do not exist but, with perseverance they can be found outside arrivals. The fare to the city is about £5-£10. Departure tax is £14.

at least two hours for check in. The tran- per person. A soothing shower costs £2.30.

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the other. Upstairs is less rowdy but it is impossible to find a quiet spot. A sandwich cation to new technology - check your e- stairs at £4.29 for a minimum 2 hour stay and beer from the takeaway counter will cost £1.89 but you've got to queue. Shopping is quite good and well priced. Vodka cost £5, cigarettes £6.88, perfume £32.50.

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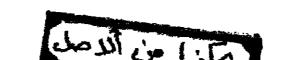
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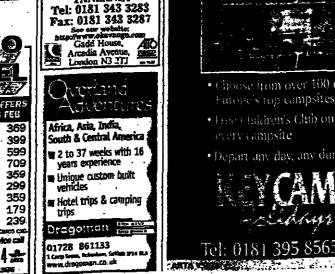
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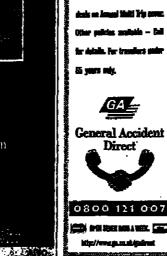
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The bridesmaid catches the bouquet

Australia's second city is tops for food, gardens and Victorian town halls. Tony Wheeler toasts his adopted home of Melbourne

It seems impossible to mention Australia's number two city without comparing it with the number one. But there can be distinct advantages to having a more glamorous sibling even one as sexy as Sydney. OK, nobody wants to be the ugly sister, cruelly forced to remind the beautiful Princess of her place in the universe, but having somebody else frying under the spotlight, besieged by spotty teenage admirers and stalked by obsessives can be relaxing. It is no bad thing, after all, to be able to find a

table free in a favourite restaurant. And if you don't yet have a favourite, just wander down crowded and colourful Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, which seems to have dedicated itself to providing at least one restaurant for every cuisine on earth. Personal recommendations include the Provincial Hotel (now very un-provincial, rather stylish, in fact), The Fitz (one of the best breakfast spots in Melbourne) and Charmaine's (for the city's best ice cream).

in fact, the range from Ethiopian to Thai along Brunswick Street is only the start. You can catch the sun at the restaurant-packed riverbank South Gate Centre and head for France in Simply French or Bistro

For people-

watching, coun-

tercultural St bly the place. whether it's in sophisticated Madame Joe Joe's or hip places like the Dog's Bar or Greasy Joe's. You can even enjoy your Melbourne meal while trundling around the city on one of the famous trams, the nearest thing Melbourne has to an instantly recognisable symbol. Never expect great food in any restaurant that moves, floats or rotates is a time-honoured maxim, but perhaps trundling is a

The city's upside-down river, the brown (muddy, not dirty if you don't mind) Yarra coils through the city, providing entertainment all the way. Hire a bicycle from the riverside bike rental agencies and you can pedal your way past the barbecues, following one of the longest bike tracks in Australia, a car-free route along the riverbank which stretches for more than 20km from the very centre of the city.

If you like your boating with a glass of wine in hand, rather than an oar, head in the other direction where the river widens out, past the skyscrapered city centre and Melbourne's busy container port, and on under the soaring West Gate Bridge to the huge sweep

of Port Phillip Bay. Cruise boats start from the riverbank near Flinders Street railway station in the centre of the city and shuttle up and down this working stretch of the river. On weekends, the waters of the bay are dotted with sails ranging from countless windsurfers to hulking maxi-yachts.

There's plenty of bluster, too, in the State Parliament - one of the less well-known tourist attractions. A couple of years ago, Australian politics seemed to be heading towards terminal boredom until Melbourne (and the state of Victoria) elected Jeff Kennet. He quickly became Australia's best known and most quoted politician. Our Jeff, as even the most rabidly anti-Kennet Melburnians find themselves fondly referring to him, is an antipodean Maggie Thatcher: a rightwing pit bull dedicated to putting his boot into everything from unions, to his own mouth, to the accelerator of his car. When he was nabbed for breaking the speed limit while taking a Mercedes full of German businessmen on tour, the story pushed all other news off the front page of Melbourne papers for days.

Perhaps he'd already hinted what was going to happen, for one of Jeff's first moves after his election was to get rid of the state's nice green-and-white car licence plates proclaiming that you were in the Garden State, and replace them with something much more zappy announcing that Victoria was "On the Move". Nevertheless, the city's parks and gardens remain a delight. The Golden Mile of the inner city is virtually ringed by parks, including the Fitzroy Gardens, where you can stumble upon Captain Cook's cottage, bought, dismantled and shipped out to Australia from its native Yorkshire back in 1934.

This is certainly a green city and there's nowhere greener than the stunning Botanic Gardens; back in 1920, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle proclaimed them absolutely the most beautiful place he had ever seen and. if anything, they've improved since then. If you're wandering the gardens, make sure to look for the colony of Queensland flying foxes, giant fruit-eating bats which have taken up residence here, far further south than their normal habitat.

After hours, Melbourne also has a lot going for including one half of the world's best opera house. (The entirety of this popular mythical beast is a combination of the exterior of Sydney's opera house and the acoustics of Melbourne's.) If opera is too rarefied, Melbourne is equally active at the other extreme of the musical spectrum; this is Australia's rock'n'roll capital, with sweaty pubs where every Aussie rock act worth an encore has cut its teeth. Try places like the bit different; the food on board the tram is pretty good. down and dirty Esplanade Hotel in St Kilda or the smart Continental in Prahran.

Names like St Kilda and Prahran soon become familiar to Melbourne visitors because this is a city of localities, each with its own character. It's a factor of the city's gold rush origins: when gold was discovered in Victoria in the early 1850s, Melbourne exploded, pushing out in all directions. A network of suburban railway lines rapidly followed. Melbourne quickly outpaced Sydney and for many years was Australia's largest city. Imposing Victorian town halls, products of that gold rush wealth, mark these cities within the city. The inner-city suburbs include areas such as Richmond, at one time Melbourne's Greek

Melbourne rag trade. Or South Yarra, young and stylish, with Chapel Street the most fashionable road in the city. Toorak is the home of Melbourne's old moncy and retired politicians. Carlton is the Italian centre which partied all night long when Italy won the football World Cup and it's the site of the manic annual waiters race - a 100-metre sprint and don't spill the cappuccino on the tray. There's great competi-

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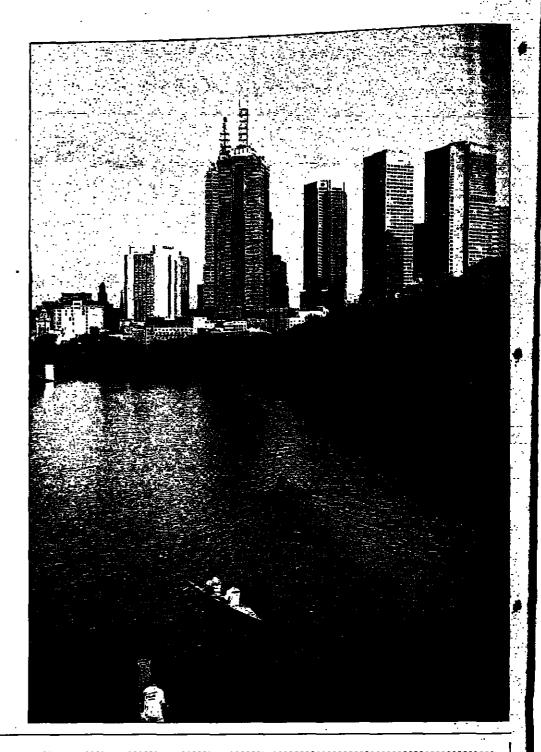
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centre but now taken over by Vietnamese and the tion between Carlton coffee bars to have the fastest Ponds, home to one of Melbourne's best known absent citizens, Dame Edna. Now (s)he is surely the

> Tony Wheeler is founder of Lonely Planet, whose second edition of the 'Melbourne City Guide' is published in Britain this month, price £6.99.



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Second city but not

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Melbourne's skyline

Gillhams/Robert Harding

above right,

Servian and

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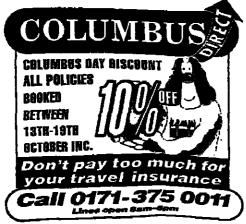
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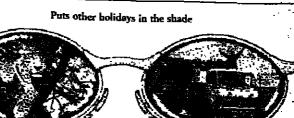
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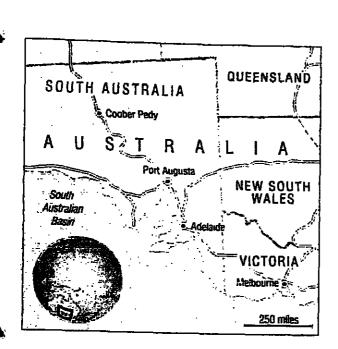


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Anyone for noodles?

If you want a holiday that will make friends green with envy, you could always try digging for your fortune in the opal fields of Coober Pedy in South Australia. Marion Bull joins the other happy 'noodlers' and learns to tell her painted lady from her mullocks

After a hard day's noodling on Cooper Pedy's mullock heaps, finding only potch, I was beginning to wonder whether a dictionary might not be more handy than a pick and shovel. But once you have learnt the words, there isn't much to it. Anyone can noodle. Some people even make a living from it - searching for chips of opal discarded along with rock debris from mines on South Australia's opal fields.

CAR DI DOM

For the name alone it is worth a try, but e after res tourist who pocketed £2,000 worth of opals in an afternoon. I noodled furiously. By the end of the day I had acquired a headache, backache and dry skin from sifting through a large amount of potch - clear, valueless opal, found naturally at the "level" about 10 metres below ground where opal is

Coober Pedy or kupa piti, "white man's hole", is marooned in a bubbling sci-fi ered the cost of the tour within the first 10

desertscape of conical mullock heaps and hidden mine shafts in a 40km are around town. Looking down from a small plane distorts their size - there is nothing to compare them with. From that perspective frenetic moles seem to have been at work.

Half the population, and tourists too, live and sleep in underground dug-outs because the temperature is less unbearable than the desert extremes outside.

North of town within the dog fence that cuts across Australia, some light relief. The pastel-coloured Breakaways outcrop, site of ancient dreamtime wanderings, with its look-out points, gives you a glimpse of Australia's seductiveness, where a vast duck-egg blue sky and scudding clouds close in on the Moon Plain and horizon

On the second day's noodling - I hadn't given up yet - I joined a tour guided by the diminutive kitten-faced Lisa-Jane Woodrock. She was not 14 as I'd thought, but 26. After arriving in the opal fields a few years ago with no knowledge of mining, she is now with self-made millionaire Jon James. There are quite a few in Coober Pedy. You wouldn't know it. They blend in as imperceptibly as the dug-outs they live in.

Noodling along with Lisa-Jane I'd cov-

minutes. Attempting to conceal the shameful squealing excitement of finding what amounts to buried treasure, I picked up a piece of painted lady - bluish green opal - followed by half a dozen other pieces of varying quality that day. By then I was hooked. Too much of a trophy to take to a buyer, I kept it.

Scrutinising white rock in blazing sunshine is helped by a plastic water spray opal shines up in the wet. But Lisa-Jane and Jon really did lick the rocks - all miners do. After all, spittle is more readily available than water.

Most of the world's precious opal is mined in Coober Pedy. An inland sea once covered the area. As it dried up due to climatic changes, opal, hydrated silica in a gel form, was deposited between rock crevices along with fossils between two and 70 million years ago.

Miners sometimes gouge out opalised nclucent chells opalised mussels and clams thrown together by the force of some ancient flood was revealed recently. Like a massive dish part-owner of the Opal Quest mine, along of petrified moules marinière, some still open, it is the largest such specimen ever

> I was taken to a musselman's underground home in the desert. It had the surreal number of 21 rooms. Too modest at first to have his photograph taken ("I look

> > Opal options: half the population of Coober Pedy live underground – where the temperature is less unbearable than the extremes on the surface. Above, the entrance to the



Dugout café/cavern, and left, the gougedout bedroom of a local miner Photographs: Marion Bull

GOING UNDER

Getting there

In the past 10 years, air fares to Australasia have fallen by half. For the absolute lowest prices to Melbourne and Adelaide (the closest gateway for Coober Pedy), call Austravel (0171-734 7755) and ask about its charters and charter/scheduled combinations, which start at about £500 plus taxes of up to £50.

The 1998 fares war to Australasia Getting around looks like starting even earlier and cut. Ansett and Qantas, the two leading doting rates even deeper than usual. International fares are almost always lower through a travel agent than direct from the airline. Services via Japan are among the cheapest and fastest, but for Adelaide ticularly long flights). People who fly to

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mestic airlines in Australia, both operate airpass schemes. Providing you take a min-imum of two flights, you pay £105 for a each sector (with an extra £15 for par-

or Melbourne you'll need an add-on do- Australia on British Airways or Qantas

qualify for slightly lower fares. A range of bus passes is available on Greyhound (01342 317317), culminating in a year of unlimited travel around Australia for £581 (as long as you join the

YHA first; otherwise it costs £103 more).

Rail passes, both regional and national, can be obtained from Long Haul Leisurail, PO Box 113, Peterborough PE3 8HY (01733 335599).

Getting information Australian Tourist Commission, Gemini House, 10-18 Putney Hill, London SW15 6AA (0990 561434).

too scruffy"), the miner, John Dunstan, around the shafts unsupervised is dangertold me he had not intended to cut away so much rock to live in, but two rooms into the rock he decided to hack out a pantry.

DUGOUT CAFE

worth of opal. "So I kept on digging," he said logically.

Coober Pedy attracts the unconventional. Not everyone makes a quick fortune. Some leave penniless, even fingerless. But for the casual visitor, noodling can be exciting, fun and is tolerated, as long as the miners' permission is sought. Wandering

ous and not permitted. Noodling only scratches the surface, as

it were. When invited to descend the nar-This small area alone revealed £30,000 row 40ft shaft by ladder I pleaded clausbest I could think up. Jon James patiently took me round the easy way at the back. where a gentle stroll down a slope to the first level meets a network of warren-like drives. Lisa-Jane not only explained how the drives were blasted. She made a bomb.

and detonator were all casually explained with a wave of a lighted cigarette that danced around in the dimly-lit cave like a conductor's baton.

"And then," she summed up, "we have trophobia and fear of scorpions. It was the about two minutes to get out ..." I doubted this, since it had taken about five to get down there. But the hairy demonstration was mercifully short, otherwise I'd have made an exception and scaled the ladder to the surface before you could say mullock heaps. I'd entered the mine feeling like Rolled-up newspaper, aluminium nitrate an old hand. But give me noodling any day.

TOMORROW IN THE NEW-LOOK, SEVEN-SECTION

ON SUNDAY



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IT'S CHANGED ... HAVE YOU?

For an intriguing, educational insight into a community closely knit by its links with the fishing trade, visit a living museum in King's Lynn says Louise Duffield.

There's nothing like reality for bringing history alive. And when you step through the doors into the two remaining cottages of King's Lynn's last fishing vard you can't fail to be thankful that we live in the 1990s, Each cottage is a tiny one-up-one-down home - with rooms no bigger than 12 feet by

You can almost hear young visitors gasp when they are told that nine children - sleeping top to toe - shared one bed, while mum and dad slept on the floor. And when they realise there is no running water, no bath and no toilet ... well, it really hits them how difficult times were. True's Yard is a fascinating insight into how the fishing community of King's Lynn lived and worked for centuries. It's all the more remarkable since the great majority of "staff" are volunteers.

Once there were hundreds of tiny cottages crammed into yards in the tightly-knit community known as the North End. The fishing families seldom married outside the community and rarely left the area under the shadow of the medieval chapel of St Nicholas, except to put to sea. But with the 1930s came Slum Clearance Acts, demolition and the loss of the fishermen's yards.

That was until a few years ago when a campaign to save the last two remaining cottages was launched. The complex of True's Yard, with its carefully restored adjoining homes, is the result of a successful mission to save part of King's Lynn's nautical history.

True's Yard fishing museum has a wealth of memorabilia from the days of fishing under sail, models of old fishing smacks and hand-knitted "ganseys" - the distinctive woollen sweaters worn by the fishermen and usually knitted by their wives from patterns handed down verbally through the generations.

Visitors can also see a samphire cart which has been hawked around King's Lynn by five generations of one family. A typical Lynn fishing boat, known as a smack, is currently being fully restored.

A 15-minute video charts the history of the town's fishing, and photographs and exhibits bring the community alive. All displays in the museum have been donated by North End families, some of whom act as guides to give a realistic insight into what life was once like in this closeknit area.

More than anything else, though, the cottages form the focal point of the museum - one furnished in the period around 1850 and the other in 1920s style. They illustrate just how spartan life was for the fishing folk. Each has a yellow brick floor on to which the homecoming fisherman would shoot his eatch of shellfish ready for sorting by his family. And each has a rag rug, always with the colour red featured in it to ward off the devil should he look down the

The museum, with the help of lottery money, has expanded recently and has added a "hands-on" room specifically for children. Water experiments will be featured soon.

The visitors Anne Powles, a school teacher, went to True's Yard, with her daughters Kathryn, 11, and Victoria, seven.

Anne: We got an awful lot more out of the visit by having a guide who was a descendant of one of the old North End fishing families. He had a wealth of information and could answer any questions we asked. The cnthusiasm of the volunteers - some of them just teenagers - for their heritage really came over strongly.

To think that so many people lived in those tiny cottages is amazing. They must never have had any privacy. Their lack of belongings really hit me. I was also fascinated by the many wallpaper samples which have been uncovered in the cottages.

Everything at the museum was very nicely finished off and the plants and flowers gave an added touch. The café was clean and the gift shop spacious.

I think the museum gave good value for money. When you go out you don't like to feel you are being fleeced, but this is a place where you would be quite happy to stop for drinks and a cake. Usually you tend not to go and have a look at things on your doorstep, but I imagine True's Yard would appeal to a lot of local people as well as tourists.

Kathryn: I liked the cottages best because it was really interesting to see how people used to live. I thought the writing in the school book on display was very neat. I thought it was funny when we were told that the children in the old school photo had all been given smart collars to wear by the photographer, who then took them away to be used in his next school photo session. This trip helped me with my history at school. I want to go back when all the water experiments have been set up. I think the fishermen must have been very brave. I wouldn't have liked to have lived in

Victoria: I liked walking through the whale's mouth into the activity room. I also liked the stones on the wall near the shrimps. They were fossils. I thought the model of the fisherman with his big boots near him was good. I also liked the cottages but I wouldn't have wanted to share a bed with so many brothers and sisters.

The deal True's Yard is in North Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk (01553 770479). Opening times: daily, except Christmas Day, 9.30am-4.30pm, with last admission to the museum at 3.45pm.

Admission: £1.90 adults, £1.50 concessions, £1 for children, under fives free. Access: Accessible by wheelchair

and for pushchairs everywhere, except the upstairs rooms of the cottages. Signing guides and touch tours for hearing and vision impaired visitors are available most of the time by

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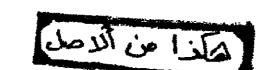
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Seriously small: miniature horses should be no more than 34 inches high at the shoulder. Above, Tikki Adorian, chair of the British Miniature Horse Society, with one of her charges Photographs: Andrew Buurman

They look like horses, smell and behave like the real thing and are increasingly popular. But they're less than three feet high. Cl. is Mowbray enters the Lilliputian world of miniature horses at a diminutive stud farm.

Part of the Intel Yard

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rigê ê.

Haique

At the sunset of their careers, old equesrians do not die or even fade away - they just downsize. Riders who once fearlessly trged their horses to jump over six-footligh fences are increasingly setting their sights on something rather smaller when

their days in the saddle are over. Which helps to explain why the world of miniature horses, in which fully-grownequines as small as labradors can change hands for mammoth prices, is booming. Once a horse lover, it seems, always a horse lever, and difficulties such as age, infirmit and even severe physical handicap need iot prevent you from keeping a thor-(ughbred when you are no longer capable of handling the full-scale thing.

My little pony – small, perfectly formed and thoroughbred

ted maximum of 34 inches at the shoulder, they can be kept in an ordinary back garden, provided the owners really know what they are doing and feed and exercise them properly.

This is what makes them so popular with former riders who are no longer capable of riding but who still want to own a horse," says Tikki Adorian, the chair of the British Miniature Horse Society.

"We also find that they are becoming popular with couples whose adult children used to ride as youngsters. They have never ridden themselves, but they miss having a horse about the place and keep a miniature instead as a pet. Miniatures feel, smell and behave like real horses because that is exactly what they are and they have to be treated as such."

small. Standing no more than the permit-shrouded in mystery and a paucity of doc-since. Current owners include the actor directly descended from a tiny creature that all mature horses under a certain height should be slaughtered and buried. He was apparently anxious to breed a new race of super-equine for battle which would leave the enemy as also-rans.

Fortunately, his rustic subjects chose to ignore him and continued using them for racing, hauling in fuel from the peat moors and pulling coal out of the earliest mines. Later monarchs recognised their charm and it became the fashionable thing at Court to be seen trotting out with a miniature.

umentation, but it is certain that they are Patrick Mower, the designer Paolo Gueci, and a number of Eastern royal families. which roamed the earth 60 million years A full list of such luminaries is impossible ago. In Britain their survival has, howev- to come by because, to safeguard their prier, been at some risk on a number of oc-vacy, many buy their miniatures through casions. Henry VIII, in particular, ordered an agent and are never registered as the

> Yet while the trade in miniatures is a multi-million-dollar industry in America. the creatures are generally far from expensive in Britain. Although a top thoroughbred can fetch £12,500, the average price is only £1,300 for fillies and £650 for colts. A poor but healthy specimen can cost as little as £50.

> "Someone who is knowledgeable can keep them on a back-garden lawn which is the same as a field is to a full-size horse," adds Mrs. Adorian.

smallest horse can churn up the ground with its hooves in wet weather. There are other difficulties as well. Some garden plants can be poisonous to them, neighbours might object and, depending on where you live, you might be contravening council by-laws by keeping them too lose to a house.'

Mrs Adorian has encountered every snag involved in keeping miniatures since falling in love with them while learning to ride on one 52 years ago at the age of three. She started breeding them when only 19 and now has 300 on her 200-acre stud farm in West Sussex - nearly a quarter of the entire register of the British Society. The number of unregistered horses is unknown and the Society would like to trace them in the ous. hope of finding stock which will improve the national pedigree.

the Guinness Book of Records as the smallest horse in the world, five-year-old Toy Horse Countess Natushka (Tushie for short) who stands at just 27 inches. Tushie's title is about to be taken from her by an American usurper called Hope.

Mrs Adorian was heavily involved with the International Miniature Horse Society until five years ago when she fell out violently with members who, she claims, were trying to pass off British-bred horses as American. Believing that the British breeding herd was in danger of losing its identity, she founded the British Society to preserve and improve the blood lines. The Society is now developing competitions including showjumping classes in which the owner has to run alongside the animal and jump the same fences.

"If you are hooked on miniatures, you are really hooked and I know of marriages which have ended because of them. One partner becomes so addicted to them and devotes so much time to them, that the other partner feels left out and becomes jeal-

"People seeing them for the first time are usually stopped in their tracks. They are

The ash could have turned to ashes before my eyes

What started out as a most satisfying project almost resulted in disaster, the implications of which were enough to turn this woodcutter's knees to sawdust.

My project for the afternoon seemed quite straightforward: to fell a dead ash which was looming over our lane. The farmer on whose land the tree stood had agreed that if cut it up, I could have the firewood.

Being only an amateur woodsman, I do not often

drop trees across public roads. Still less am I used to doing it on a one-in-four slope, with high banks on either side of an eight-foot fairway. Nevertheless, at the dead hour of 3pm hardly any traffic passes our way, and I could find no good reason to prevaricate.

Luckily the tree's natural inclination was ideal, and I needed no wedges or ropes to drop it uphill and across the lane at an angle. A couple of minutes with the power-saw at full revs, and crash! - over it went, dead on line.

As always, the trunk

looked bigger down than up a formidable hulk, 18 inches in diameter at the bottom. The need to clear the fairway was urgent, so I started cutting off logs about a foot long and manoeuvring them into the gully at the edge of the tarmac. On a bot afternoon, I was soon pouring with sweat: toiling away, I realised belatedly that I was creating a substantial heap. Nevertheless, I was

determined to swag the whole lot away in one go, for good firewood left on the roadside has a habit of disappearing in

I went through one tank of

fue) and started on a second. Then a burst of sparks betrayed the fact that I had hit grit, embedded in the bark. In a split second the edge had gone from the

chain's teeth: their output changed from flakes of wood to dust, and I ceased to make headway.

A stoppage for sharpening was inevitable. Then, probably, haste made me careless. As one more round came free, I failed to stabilise it: toppling over, it knocked another log off its flat surface

DUFF HART-DAVIS

on to its curved circumference, and both rolled away downhill, rapidly accelerating. Ye gods! In a trice the lane

had become an iceless replica of the Cresta Run: steep gradient, blistering curves. high banks, lethal missiles hurtling down. I dumped the saw and lit off in pursuit. When I ripped off my safety helmet, that, too, started to roll, so I kicked it into touch

runaways weighed nearly 80lbs. The last I saw of them, they were going well round a left-hand bend and starting to bound. I had horrific visions of the havoc they could cause. They would smash hell out of the radiator of any up-coming car. If they jumped at a bad moment they might decapitate the driver. They would certainly disable or annihilate any pedestrian

Too late! Each of the

At such bad moments, the imagination moves like lightning. I thought of the bus full of National Trust grannies which had tried to come up the lane, and got stuck, the week before. I thought of the red Ford Capri, venerable but much loved, which stands parked outside the cottage at the end

they hit.

of the second straight. As I ran, I listened for the erump of a major impact, or at least a scream, curse or groan. Dreading the worst, I rounded a long, left-hand bend. Nothing - no corpses, no logs. A 100-yard straight. another long bend, the second straight, this one

aimed dead at the Capri. No crump, no dent - but still no logs. Had they done a shuttlecock and, at a lefthander, leapt the fence into the field?

right, a third straight. At last, 500 yards down, one of the bounders had come to rest by a stile leading on to a footpath. The other must have carried on, past my own house, past my neighbour. On I went, right to the bottom of the lane, right to the patch of mud by the post

Another left-hander, then

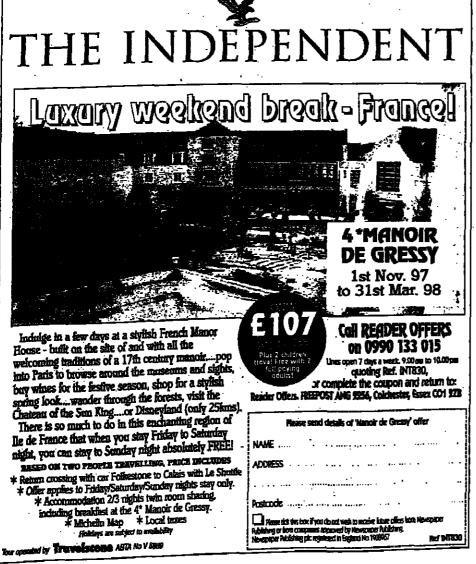
box. Half a mile from the scene of the crime, there was still no trace of the second tearaway.

At least nobody was dead. Hustling back uphill, I grabbed saw and helmet and

returned to the attack. Three trailer-runs were needed to bring home all the booty, and as I was unloading the last of it, my neighbour, a retired judge, came round to ask if I had lost anything.

Earlier, he had been considerably surprised to see a hefty log turn at rightangles off the lane, roll into his drive and thud gently to rest in his gateway. When he heard where it had come from, he turned pale.

Now I have a ton and a half of prime ash stacked in my woodshed. But every time I bring in a basket of logs during the winter, I shall be haunted by memories of those ghastly seconds when I vainly gave chase to the two

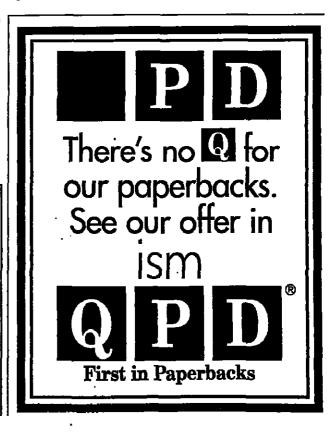


NATURE NOTE

Next week will be a time of high excitement in woods harbouring fallow deer, for the annual rut is reaching its peak. Each master buck takes up a stand, often no bigger than a couple of tennis courts, and paces up and down it uttering loud groans or grunts. The noise, like that of a giant pig, serves both as a summons to the does, and as a challenge to lesser males, which dark about nervously on the perimeter of the stand, trying to get in on the action. If a newcomer decides to take on

the master buck, the pair may walk a few yards shoulder to shoulder, on parallel courses, as if ignoring each other, then suddenly wheel inwards, lock antiers, and wrestle furiously, crashing though undergrowth until one gives way. Bucks are usually most active at night: they often go on greaning until dawn, but fall quiet as daylight

Duff Hart-Davis



An old pear dies ... time to plant a peach. Or should that be an apple?

Disaster has struck the old pear tree that grows against a west wall of the house, just to the side of the door through to the cobbled yard. It was one of the few good things in the garden when we arrived: a huge mad tree, trained against the wall in the shape of a giant T with a cluster of ferns growing along the two generous arms that made the horizontal top. Now it's dead and I'm kicking myself that I never found out its name.

Why did it die? Well, I suppose it was honey fungus, endemic in old gardens. That has been responsible for the deaths of several other of our old fruit trees. The pear was probably weakened by the droughts of the last couple of years. And it was old, More than a hundred I would guess. Honey fungus, like pneumonia, always moves in on the weak and aged.

The sad thing is, we won't be able to plant another in its place. The cobbles and flagstones of the yard come right up to the trunk of the pear, so the easiest to manage against a wall, we would never

be able to excavate much soil from the planting hole, or remove many of the old tree's roots. Fruit trees, like roses. never flourish if

been growing. I'll miss it very much. Plant the tree a little way out from But there is space for a new fruit tree elsewhere - more specifically

against the south wall of the kitchen garden, where a vine has been mouldering for some time. It takes up a lot of precious sunny space and the crops are uncertain. I also hate the mildew that affects the vine's leaves at this end of the season. Prompted by the memory of the home-grown peaches we had this summer, I've ordered another peach. The existing tree is 'Pere- year's crop. grine', which has pale-fleshed, ludicrously juicy peaches, ripening in early August. This year I got to them before the wasps. 'Duke of York' will fruit will form on the shoots springbe its partner, another pale-fleshed ing from those branches, so, each

peaches outside is the leaf curl which disfigures early foliage with hideous great blisters. Badly affected leaves drop off and a fresh set, unblistered, takes their place. But the process of having to leaf twice weakens the tree and, if you grow walltrained peaches outside, you need to cover them with a tent of polythene between January and April. The spores of the fungus Taphrina deformans that cause the blistering are carried on to the tree by rain, which is why peaches grown under glass don't suffer from

the problem. You can also spray against peach leaf curl but the treatment is a preventative rather than a cure. That means you have to remember to spray regularly, once in the autumn just before leaf fall, and then twice more before the blossom comes out in spring. Use a fungicide such as Nimrod-T. Trees already trained as fans are

ANNA

PAVORD

and in most places in Britain, peaches will need the warmth of a south-facing wall to ripen properly. First, fix eight bamboo canes

in soil where their doppelgangers have in an evenly spaced wide fan-shape. the base of the wall, but sloping in towards it. Then tie the branches to

> Like most pruning, it is easier to do if you understand why you are doing it. Peaches bear fruit on shoots that have been produced the previous season. So, for the best crops, you need to get rid of the old growths that this season's peaches have been borne on and tie in the new shoots that will carry next

> The bamboo canes give you a firm foundation on which to build the main branches of the peach tree. The

peach, which ripens by mid-July. The disadvantage of growing

> out old shoots and tie in new, keeping the whole framework tight against the wall. This makes the tree easier to manage, easier to cially cover (if you decide to do that) and helps the fruit ripen.

from stones - any stones - but you can't depend on getting fruit as came from. And you'll have to train the seedling into a tree yourself. Initially, you need to bury the stone in a pot of compost and leave it outside during the winter. Frost breaks the seed's dormancy.

keep it in a greenhouse or on a sunny windowsill until the stone breaks number of apple varieties have into growth. Pot the seedling on unopen ground. A seedling peach should start fruiting within five years.

In March, bring the pot in and

writing about peaches, natives of Chi-particular areas of the country. na. when today is Apple Day. Espe-

as apples are so much in decline as a commercial crop

Peach trees grow quite easily in this country. Over the last 10 years, apple orchards have decreased by a third. The Government even gives well-flavoured as the one the stone grants to grub them up. But why, when we currently produce only a third of the apples we eat? According to Common Ground, the environmental charity that organised the first Apple Day eight years ago, Britain is the second largest importer of apples in the world.

been developed in this country over til it is big enough to plant out in the the last 300 years. Apples are classic "land-race" trees, that is, trees that have been selected and grown It's perhaps disloyal of me to be to withstand particular conditions in

Paradoxically, an extraordinary

'King's Acre Pippin' is a Here-

Apple tastings, identification fordservice, pruning shire tree, dull green but richly aromatic, introduced in 1898. The 'Claygate Pearmain' is a fine Surrey dessert

ing in a hedge near Claygate by John Braddick in the 1820s. 'Roundway Magnum Bonum', a distinctive apple tasting of pears, was raised in Wiltshire in the 1860s by a Mr Joy, head gardener at Roundway Park near Devizes. The wonder is, you can still get hold of these apples. Try Thornhayes Nursery, St Andrews Wood, Dulford, Cullompton, Devon EX15 2DF (01884 266746), Family Trees, PO Box 3, Botley, Hampshire SO3 2EA (01329 834812), Keepers Nursery, Gallants Court, Gallants Lane, East Farleigh, Maidstone, Kent ME15 0LE (01622 726465), J Tweedie Fruit Trees, Maryfield Rd

Dumfries, Scotland DG2 9TH

(01387 720880).

APPLE DAY EVENTS Boswells, Melrose,

demonstrations and more at Highfield Nurseries, Bristol Rd. Whitminster, Gloucester today (9am-6pm) and tomorrow (10.30am-4.30pm). More information on 01452 741444. Camp-fire cooking with apples, tastings and pruning demonstrations at Acorn Bank Garden, Temple Sowerby, Nr Penrith, Cumbria tomorrow (1-5pm). More information on 01768 361893. Horticultural advice, identification, apple games at Hughenden Manor, nr High Wycombe, Bucks tomorrow (I-4pm). Two hundred varieties of apple grow in the walled garden here. Bring your windfalls for juicing. More information on 0l494 532580. Cooking demonstrations and other displays at Earthward, Tweed Horizons, Newtown St.

Roxburghshire today (Ilam-4pm). More information from 01835 822122. Fruity displays at Audley End, Saffron Walden, Essex tomorrow (IIam-4pm). More information on 01799 522309. Apples for sale, pruning advice, Camra Regional Cider of the Year Awards tomorrow (Ilam-4.30pm) at Bromham Water Mill, Bridge End Rd. Bromham, Beds. More information on 01462 681622. Talks by experts on best local apple varieties, tastings next Tuesday at Braywick Nature Centre, Maidenhead, Berks. More information on 01628 777440. Apple pressing in stable yard, glass apples made by resident glass-blowers, apple and cider sales comorrow (f0am-5pm) at Cockington Country Park, Torquay, Devon. More information on 01803 607230.

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Plant Club

WEEKEND WORK

Lay new turf now so the grass can settle during the winter. Dig over the ground, get rid of all weeds and rake the tilth so the surface is even. Use a line to keep the turves straight and lay them so the joints are staggered, like brickwork. Sift soil into any gaps and firm down the turves by banging them with a rake head.

Bare patches in lawns can be repaired either with turf, or with lawn seed. Choose a mixture with ryegrass where lawns get heavy wear. There are also seed mixtures which contain slow-growing grasses. These are especially useful for steep slopes or for using in wild flower meadows.

Fill some containers outside with plants for winter interest. Heathers such as white 'Lyonesse' and pink 'St Keverne' flower through the autumn. White 'Springwood' and pink 'King George' pick up the baton in December. Use a compost suitable for acid-loving plants. Variegated ivies and dwarf hebes will provide good foliage contrast.

If you are going for wallflowers, look for plants that are bushy and compact, with their growing tips

Greenacres, which supplies a wide

pinched out. Wallflowers have done as much growing as they are going to by the time they are planted out. A plant that is scrawny now will still be scrawny in spring. Moss growth accelerates as grass

growth slows, so if you do not like moss in the lawn, treat it now with a residual moss killer. I actually like its vivid, slightly evil green and the feeling it gives of walking on dough. Divide and replant clumps of

chives and mint. Rake up fallen leaves. If you have room, stack them in a separate compost heap or pack them into plastic sacks to rot down over winter. Leaf mould makes an excellent mulch. Lift dahlia tubers after stems have been blackened by frost. Cut dahlia stems back to about an inch and leave them to dry for a week or so. Then dust them with a fungicide such as flowers of sulphur and pack them in boxes of damp compost or sand. Store them in a place that is free from frost.

In the south and west of the country, tubers can be left in the ground, mulched over the top with a thick layer of leaves.

CUTTINGS

range of gardening sundries, recommends its liquid sulphur as a treatment against black spot. I have never treated mine, preferring to choose varieties that have an inbuilt resistance, but sulphur is a known and effective fungicide. Ironically, it was the Clean Air Act that increased the incidence of black spot on roses. Sulphur pollution was reduced dramatically and the spores of black spot multiplied with joy. The manufacturers recommend doses at three-monthly intervals in autumn, winter and spring. 500ml (enough to treat about 10 rose bushes for a year) costs £9.50 from Greenacres, PO Box 1228, Iver, Bucks SLO 0EH.

Conservation work has been going on

for several years at Leighton House in Holland Park Road, London, to restore the richly evocative interior of the house, as dilettante artists saw it in 1885. Now, with the help of a grant from the National Heritage Lottery Fund, attention has turned to the fine garden, where Lord Leighton once strolled under swoony pergolas of roses. To coincide with the restoration, the Friends of Leighton House have arranged a series of winter lectures on garden themes. Next Tuesday, Christopher Wood, an expert in Victorian paintings, will talk about Painted Gardens, watercolours of the late Victorian and Edwardian era. Tickets (£8 to include wine) are available from the Curator, Leighton House Museum, 12 Holland Park Road. London W14 8LZ (0171-602 3316).

13/GARDENING

A growing trend rooted in the past

Erumping is actively encouraged a the Rivers Nursery Orchard at Swbridgeworth in Hertfordshire, sys Patricia Cleveland-Peck. It's all art of an initiative to improve ommunity relations.

Of course our Apple Day celebrations are oing ahead," said Diana Richard. "It oesu't matter that this isn't a good apple car. We had hoped the Girl Guides would e able to make chutney to sell but there an't enough fruit so we'll have to make do ith a picnic and games - and a walk around

The Rivers Nursery Orchard is just one f some 70 community orchards that have ben created throughout the country for te benefit of local people. The initiative ane from Common Ground, the organition which focuses on the links between offure and nature: it established Apple Day i 1991, not simply as an excuse for a celmation but to raise awareness of the woncriful diversity of our local British apples.

The Rivers Community Orchard project

iparticularly rewarding as it is preserving

ad regenerating what was one of the great

nurseries of England. The Rivers family be-gan growing fruit on this site in 1725; here er techniques. Vo the famous 'Early Rivers' plum was developed in 1834 - it is still one of the best. Here too, many new varieties of peach, nectarine, apricol, pear and apple were developed and experiments with dwarfing stock and pot-grown fruit were undertaken. The nursery closed in 1985 - part of the land went to development of houses and been made available to the community.

It was the enthusiasm of two dynamic that got the project off the ground. "Last year we held a public meeting and invited cluding a small bright-red gooseberry all the local organisations; Scouts, Girls Guides, Women's Institutes. We were amazed by the enthusiastic response," said Diana. "Many local families had worked at Rivers Nursery and saw it as part of their history, so the idea had strong appeal. We had a traditional wassail in January and more than 60 people turned up on a cold winter's night.

Volunteers also meet once a month on a Sunday to do maintenance work. Both Diana and Susan have attended courses for the regeneration of old orchards at Brogdale Horticultural Trust and can instruct

er techniques. Volwill unteers rewarded by being able to take the fruit home. "Legalised scrumping," said Diana.

Meanwhile there is plenty to do. The last apple trees were planted in 1948 as a demonstration orchard and this area has now been surveyed and each tree numbered a private hospital, but some 42 acres have for identification purposes. One of the most exciting things about this old orchard is the fact that so much interesting genetic plant women, Diana Richard and Susan Clark material was abandoned on the site; unusual, possibly unique, fruit varieties inwhich looks like a redcurrant.

Fruit covers about a third of the area; willow trees shelter the orchard (the withies were used in packing the saplings for despatch) while beyond stretches a wildflower meadow containing wonderful chalkland flora; wild marjoram, scabious and bee orchids. Wildlife abounds; skylarks, owls, sparrowhawks and small mammals thrive in this undisturbed setting. An area has been set aside as a camping ground.

'We had a dawn chorus walk earlier in the year," Diana says. "It is so good to see



orchard (on a nature reserve) was it discovered that in the 18th and 19th centuries the plot was part of a well known nursery. The Brentford Nursery, run by the Ronalds family, had specialised in apples. The famous Victorian writer J C Loudon commented in his Gardener's Magazine of 1829, "Mr Ronalds has for many years paid great attention to the culture and improvement of

> the trees are of such size and age and Mr Ronald's experience respecting their individual character and habits of such an extent that... we have strongly urged him to publish a selection of engravings and descriptions."

The book, illustrated by Mr Ronald's daughter Elizabeth, duly appeared and Peter May, the landscape officer in charge of the current Ealing project, was delighted when he found a copy in Chiswick Library. "We knew that fruit had once been grown here, but this gave us a real - and very important - link with the past."

> For further details about orchards contact Common Ground on 0171-379 3109

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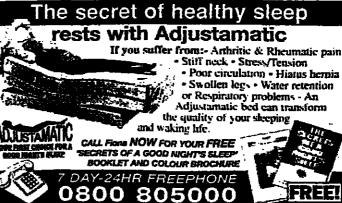
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Five years ago, fireman Bob Erends took up painting. He has since held 15 solo exhibitions of his work and runs art classes for people who want the benefit of his self-taught wisdom on their master works. Sally Staples brushes-up on her watercolours.

Watching Bob Erends give a demonstration to 16 people on a four-day residential course at Earnley near Chichester in Sussex, it is easy to see his appeal. He dispenses with any professorial mystique and gets straight down to the business of giving simple instructions and helpful shortcuts to achieve the desired effect.

The subject of this particular course is autumn studies and Bob is painting a landscape with silver birch trees in the foreground. "Make the branches look as though they're growing by painting them at the same time as the trunk," he says. "If you wait for the trunk to dry and then do the branches they'll look stuck on."

And he's not afraid of stating what might be obvious to some of his pupils. "Don't touch it to see if it's dry because then you leave nasty fingermarks if it's

By the time he comes to putting the foliage on his trees by dabbing the branches with a sponge, the group is entranced. He shows them how to hold the brush in and within seconds of what looks like a few ed silver birch trees are created before our

John Stallwood, a retired optician and with what he has learned so far. "Bob's technique is so different from anything I've seen in books," he said. "We were agog at the way he just got hold of a colour and went for a broad brush - and yet the detail was just there."

students pick up their materials and venture outside to find a suitable subject to paint. Many pick a pretty brick house in the grounds and settle down to try and bring some of Bob's technique to their

Sarah Harris, 30, who comes from Hove in Sussex where she works in a centre for people with learning difficulties, has never painted with water colours before but was inspired to give it a go after her sister went on a similar course.

Elizabeth Hill went to art college 30 years ago and hasn't picked up a paintbrush since. She has taken time off from a high powered job in the NHS to see if she can recapture her old enthusiasms. "I remember perspective and the drawing but water- colour is a very specific kind of

Company director John Hutchinson from Edinburgh received a voucher for the course at Earnley as a 50th birthday pre-sent from his wife. "The wonderful thing is having so much time to paint. At home I can only give myself a couple of hours here and there. I wanted to work at skies and seas and that is one of the things on offer here. There is a friendly atmosphere and it's a good environment to work in."

During the four days at Earnley weather permitting - the students will be taken by minibus to paint in the pretty seaside village of Bosham and attempt some yachting scenes at Itchenor harbour.

A large airy studio is available for demonstrations and for painting when the weather is wet. Bob also provides hundreds of photographs for those who prefer to stay rather than paint outside.

"I do think this course should be fun," he said. "I suppose I am a bit of a Redcoat at heart, but people should get out line with the tree trunk to paint the bark of it what they want. Some come here wanting to be very serious and even a bit casual movements two remarkably craft- competitive about their work. And that's fine. Others are very hesitant and find that a bit of humour can relax them. You get all sorts on these courses. I've taught high publisher from Burgess Hill, is delighted court judges and dustmen and the mix is part of the fun."

The four-day Autumn Studies water colour course costs £269 for residents and £185 for non residents at The Earnley Concourse, Earnley, near Chichester, West Sussex P020 When the demonstration is over, the 71L (01243 670392). There are a variety of painting courses to choose from and a range of other activities at the centre.

Similar watercolour courses can be found at: The Old Rectory Adult Education College, Fittleworth, Pulborough, West Suswork. The range of ability is wide - vary- sex (01798 865306); Wye Valley Arts Cening from beginner through to painters who tre, The Coach House, Mork, St Briavel's, Lydney, Glos GLI5 6QB (01594-530214).



At easel: Bob Erend's courses attract everyone from 'high court judges to dustmen'

Photograph: Andrew Hasson

GAMES

BAWN O'BEIRNE RANELAGH DON'T JUNK IT - USE IT

Last week, we drank 172 bottles of wine and made a bath mat. For anyone who already has a bath mat, or was otherwise inhibited by that recipe, we have something this week that demands the consumption of only 93 bottles. It's an oenophile's notice board.

1. Cut a piece of plywood or medium density fibreboard to the size you want.

2. Now drink 93 bottles of wine. Expensive wine is best. That is why it's so expensive.

3. Arrange the corks on the board and glue in pairs in a regular pattern. 4. Be imaginative - you can go wild

with curves or create gaps to be filled with little bits of cork.

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SURVEY OF THE WEEK

On Christmas Day, playing board games is more popular than making love - according to a survey by the company TV Games. In reply to the question: "What is your favourite Christmas Day pastime?"

1. Eating without guilt 2. Drinking

Opening presents

4. Playing traditional family board games 5. Making love

6. Sitting down to a massive Christmas dinner

7. Going for a family walk 8. Going to church

9. Being with the family 10. Watching television

And in reply to: "Why do you play board games?" the answer "To win" only managed fifth place.

PANDORA MELLY GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

Sokari Douglas Camp, 38, sculptor

My first game began when I was three or four, and my guardian bought me an African portable stove. It was a parvellous thing shaped like an upside-down pyramid with a long stem. You burned coal in the top and the ash fell down into the bottom, which made a hot grill-like area. You had to be in old-time Africa for that kind of

I had a lovely balcony which overlooked some hills in the Yoruba land of Western Nigeria. You could watch the mist coming in while you played in the early morning. I used to cook and make revolting pretend-food in the portable stove. I used leaves and water, and lilies mushed up with a few dead worms, and sometimes a bit of spit would fly in. I was feeding my dolls.

My other game was drawing stories in the sand:

people going on boats, and little fish with teeth, and mad pictures about things that might happen to men and fish. My children tell wonderful stories, but they don't play the games I used to play. They're English girls; they re-enact their school assembly: "Get into line, no shoving at the back there!" Stuffed dogs are the things they hug at

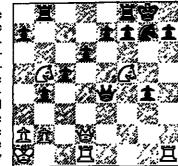
I think the games I play now are cultural games. If you tell an English person that he is wonderful, he'll say "Nono-no!", whereas an American might say: "Yeah and I did this and that ... "Then there are the awful games that black professionals play in this country: pretending to be subservient and not noticing prejudice. That kind of thing irritates me terribly. The game I play is to exaggerate being foreign; I talk about my blackness. which a lot of white people don't like to hear about because it makes them feel uncomfortable.

CHESS: WILLIAM HARTSTON

Richard Réti (1889-1929) was one of the most important figures in the world of chess between the wars. Ouite apart from a string of excellent tournament victories, he composed some of the finest endgame studies, founded the "hypermodern" school of chess, set a record by playing 29 games at the same time while blindfolded and wrote two of the best books in the whole of chess literature, Masters of the Chessboard and New Ideas in Chess. It is to these that one should turn for the real flavour of Réti's cultured thoughtfulness - he had an elegance of prose that fully matched his delicate style of play. His creative achievements at the board, however, are well captured in Richard Reti's Best Games by the late Harry Golombek, which has recently been reissued by Batsford (price £13.99) in a new edition with corrections and additions to the analysis by John Nunn.

Golombek described the following game as "one of the most exciting games of the 1920s". After five moves, a symmetrical position in the English opening was reached. Nowadays, we would probably see White playing for a space advantage with 6.0-0 0-0 7.d4, but Réti hatched an extraordinary plan with 6.d3 and 7.Be3!? followed by Q-side castling and a vigorous K-side attack.

17.Nb5! was necessary to prevent Black's Q-side initiative from growing too strong (17.fxg4? bxc3 18.bxc3 Nxe2+ wins for Black), but The critical moment came after 24 front cover.



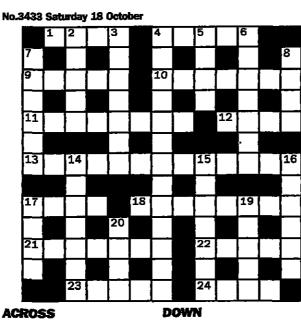
moves (see diagram). Instead of 25.Ng3! Qg6 (25 ... Qb7 26.Qh6 wins for White), 26.Rh6, Réti erred with 25.Nxg7? Kxg7 26.Qh6+, but Black went wrong with 26 ... Kg8? instead of the superior 26 ... Kh8! which would have left him on top.

White: Richard Réti Black: Albert Becker

V16	nna 1923
1 Nf3 Nf6	16 f3 b4
2 c4 c5	17 Nb5 Nxe2+
3 g3 g6	18 Kc2 Nxg3
4 Bg2 Bg7	19 fxg4 Nxe4
5 Nc3 Nc6	20 dxe4 Qe6
6 d3 0-0	21 Nf5 Qxc4+
7 Be3 d6	22 Kb1 Qxe4+
8 h3 Bd7	23 Ka1 hxg4
9 Qd2 Rb8	24 Bxg7 Nxg7
10 Bh6 Ne8	25 Nxg7 Kxg7
11 h4 Bg4	26 Qh6+ Kg8
12 h5 gxh5	27 Rdg1 Kh8
13 Nb4 Qd7	28 Rxg4 Qxh1+
14 Be4 Nd4	29 Qxh1 Rg8
15 0-0-0 b5	30 Rxg8+ resigns

Golombek always considered this his best book, which makes it soon led to a position in which all the more regrettable that Bats-Black had six pawns for a piece. fords have misspelt his name on the

CONCISE CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Trigonometrical function Suffering from tedium
- Accumulate (5) 10 Partially cover (7) 11 Domicile (8) 12 Gulf state ruler (4) 13 Get the wrong end of the
- stick (13) 17 Oversupply (4) 18 Musical composition (8) 21 Leave (7) 22 Asian river (5)

Greek letter (7) Marks to one's credit Dance (4) Problem (7)

Foolish (5)

Bicycle made for two (6) Stimulus (4) 14 Banger (7) 15 Subdivision (7) 16 Sleepy (6) 17 Happy (4)

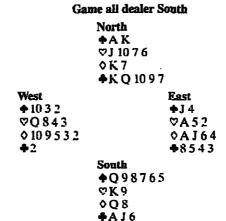
19 French sculptor (5)

20 Lazy (4) Water-jugs (5)

24 Convent women (4) Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Shorten, 5 Suite (Short and sweet), 8 Olive, 9 Callous, 10 Niagara, 11 Buyer, 12 Flight, 14 Remiss, 17 Norma, 19 Carbine, 22 Sulphur, 23 Drake, 24 Error, 25 Earnest, DOWN: 1 Spoon, 2 Origami. 3 Theta, 4 Nectar, 5 Soluble, 6 Irony, 7 Ensures, 12 Finesse, 13 Heather, 15 Imitate, 16 Scarce, 18 Ruler, 20 Rider, 21 Elect.

BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON



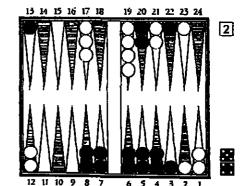
In his haste to give his partner a ruff, East missed his only opportunity to give declarer a chance to go wrong on this deal.

South opened One Spade, North responded Two Clubs and, with a close decision whether to rebid his spades or support his partner, South chose Three Clubs. He need not have worried, for he had another chance when North advanced with Three Hearts and, with no sure guard in diamonds, he could bid his spades again, after which North raised to game.

Yes, Three No-trumps would have been a doddle. West led ♣2 against Four Spades (clearly a singleton) and, after winning in dummy, declarer played off A.K on which West followed with the three and the two, showing a third trump and an interest in ruffing something. Even the waiter knew what was happening. Short of a quick entry to hand to draw the last trump, declarer led 0.7 from dummy. East pounced with his ace to give West his club ruff but the defenders now had only ♥A to make.

East should have realised that two heart tricks were necessary to defeat the contract. If West held ♡K. then it did not matter whether the defenders took their heart tricks before or after the club ruff; but, if West held only VQ, it was essential to lead a low heart first to give South a chance to go wrong.

BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY



Black has a fine position here and would be unjucky not to reap the benefit of having doubled. Quite a number of his wins will be gammons. He now has an innocuous 54 to play. Before looking at candidate plays he should decide on his plan for the position.

The surest way to lock up victory would be to extend his five-point prime to a six-point prime. Other elements of his plan are to release his spare man on the 22-point and to keep White's three back men pinned as deep in his bome board as possible. How then should he play the 54? There are four reasonable plays:

(a) 22/13 (b) 8/3, 8/4 (c) 8/3, 22/18 (d) 8/3, 13/9. There are others, for example 7/2*, 7/3, but they do not meet the requirements of the position.

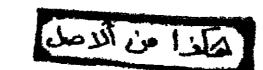
Of the four, (a) should be discarded quickly as it allows White a double shot at the man on the 3-point and it will take time to extend the prime even if White doesn't hit. All the other plays involve making the 3-point which is the right idea. After giving the cube away, (b) is not aggressive enough as the spare man on the 4-point will not be much use there. The choice lies between (c) and (d). The plays are very close but (c) gets the nod because of the way in which it duplicates White's good numbers.

White would need a six to escape his back man and also to hit the man on his bar-point. He could use a one three times: to hit on his bar, to hit on his 12-point and to chor on Black's two-point.

Give someone the opportunity to make the wrong choice and more often than not they will! This concept of duplication occurs again and again and is an extremely useful







A rock and a hard pace

If your idea of a good break is a l6-mile run through a humid jungle of sheer cliffs, stubby granite fingers and grotesque pinnacles, jonny Beardsoll may have just the thing for you...

Mountain races are not just for sinewylegged obsessives. I grasped this a year ago when I first squeezed between a barefoot Borneo tribesman, a Pirelli-bellied expatriate and a 77-year-old Japanese businessman at the start of the Mount Kinabalu International Climbathon, the nual race up and down this scary 13,455ft summit in Sabah, east Malaysia. Two weeks ago I took a camera instead of my running shoes to witness this extraordinary race again.

"Climbathon" is spot on as a title for the perverse, 16-mile schlep over South East Asia's highest peak, and describes what it takes to tackle the unforgiving, jungleswathed crown of sheer cliffs, stubby granite fingers and grotesque pinnacles. It's a gruelling hike rather than a running race, although once you've made it to Low's Peak - the top - you can speed up on the decent. with a combination of gravity and fear of long-tailed giant rats, heavy mists and gathering darkness.

When Sir Hugh Low, a government officer in what was then British North Boro, first shivered on the summit plateau



nearly 150 years later, close to 200 pantwould nip up it. The contest is now in its Britain's three top mountain runners - Ian Holmes, Mark Rigby and Mark Roberts - who weaved past the wildest men of Borneo to take top honours. The day before, Angela Mudge, the British ladies mountain running champion, finished third in

Such races have their origins in fell running, a sport first introduced in the 19th century by Lake District mountain guides. Although the races are regularly staged over the lumpiest parts of the British Isles and Europe, the more exotic venues such as the Cameroon, Japan, Reunion Island and Borneo are an alluring alternative.

But that the race would happen at all

in 1851 he could not have imagined that, this year was open to much speculation. Just days before the start, the blanket of ing men and women in slinky shorts noxious smog from forest fires burning in Indonesia was still covering the neigh-11th year, and the 1997 competition lured houring states of Kalimantan, Brunei and Sarawak. There had also been an air crash and a ship collision to add to the grim health reports from the region. In London, a misinformed Malaysian High Commission advised would-be runners not to travel. Still, race organisers in Kota Kinabalu insisted that although Sabah is known in the brochures as The Land Below the Wind, it was also The Land Above the Haze. And it was virtually smog-free, so the race was on.

> You start at a shivery 6,000ft on a metalled road beside Mt Kinabalu National Park headquarters. Lining up with 164 local and international rivals at 7am for the

Dyson, a Salomon Brothers Investment he found himself wishing he'd had a banker who, with his enterprising workmate Penny North, was aiming to raise £10,000 ter dispensing officials placed at every half for charity. Howard Stanton, a guest activities manager at a Sabah hotel, was also can running for Britain as was Tony Harvey, an engineer who works in the shadow of the mountain. They travelled light as the route is well marked; in longer races at home, you must carry a bum bag packed with a compass, map section, windproof and survival snack.

The road becomes a narrow forest trail along which thousands of dripping tourists take two days to gasp to the top. The runners smell the jungle and feel it as overhanging thorns snag at their bare arms.

Soon steep and uneven steps break up the ascent - even the fittest find it impossible to run here. Humidity is very high men's section was Londoner Howard and it is hard to breathe. Dyson later said

week acclimatising at altitude. With wamile point, everyone drinks as much as they

After a lung-bursting bour and a 5,000ft climb, Ian Holmes, in second place behind an Austrian, reached the rickety, near-sheer wooden ladders which lead up fissures in the lichen-swathed rock faces. The biggest plants are now small gnarled trees in a mossy forest, dwarfed and twisted by the rarefied mountain climate.

Another 1,000ft and Holmes was springing on to the exposed granite slabs where only sedges, grasses and tiny flowers peep from cracks in the rock. His rubber fell shoes are magic and grip like limpets to the scuzzy rocks. Here, thick fixed ropes help you to haul yourself up the steepest stretches leading to a plateau and, finally, the top.

Take a running jump: the 1997 Mount Kinabalu International Climbathon. Fell runners annually race up and down this scary 13,455ft summit in Sabah, east Malaysia Photo: Jonny Beardsall

The leaders can see their jagged target from almost a mile away as they skirt the vast crater of Low's Gully - in which two prize nincompoops led a British Army expedition to the brink of disaster four years ago. This spawned two dramadocumentaries and has made the Climbatbon all the more notorious.

Up seems bad enough, but the second, downhill half of this race is equally extreme. If your knees can take it, you go quite fast. The Kadazans, the largest local tribal group, virtually sprint down, never missing a step or needing look for one. Holmes soon took the lead and completed in two hours and 47 minutes.

"Borneo, to me, has always been all about head-hunters, snakes and blood-sucking leeches," admits Holmes, a whirlpool manufacturer from Yorkshire who, with Roberts, is joint British Mountain running champion. "So when I took the lead on the twisty descent, this was perhaps why I kept pushing on, I was always imagining what might be coming up behind me."

For more information about mountain racing contact Danny Hughes, British Athletic Federation Ltd, Athletics House, 225A Bristol Road, Edgebaston, Birmingham B5 7UB (0121-440 5000). The next Mt Kinabalu International Climbathon takes place on 3-4 October 1998. Race details may be obtained from: Sabah Tourism Promotion Corporation, Mail Bag 112, 88999 Kota Kinabahi, Sabah, E. Malaysia. Fax 00 6088 212 075.

What treasures lie beyond that placid exterior?

Hamish Scott explores the rolling East Lothian countryside, and finds a castle, a chapel - and the home of Dolly the sheep

Roslin is a small commuter rock 200 feet above the gorge Furgh, a sleepy little place of old bridge. Built in the early 14th stone cottages and trim suburcentury by Henry Sinclair, Earl ban homes set in gentle coun- of Orkney, the castle has, detryside beneath the Pentland Hills. It's the sort of village that, position, been stormed and in a film, a pair of hikers from the city might arrive in, quite un- by English armies and lastly by aware of strange subcurrents an irate Scottish mob. Within swirling just beneath the placid

We had come to see the carvings in Rosslyn Chapel which, according to some experts, rank formed us, spends his weekdays amongst the finest stonework in Britain, but we found the chapel zhrouded in a barn-like metal Fructure and, believing that it must be closed, were tempted by a finger-post beside the carpark. It just said "To The Castle" - exactly what such signposts say in horror films.

The footpath led between two graveyards. There should have been a swirl of fog, and sound-effects of croaking ravens, but even on a sunny morning we felt a certain frisson as we walked the narrow passage. Ahead of us, the ground dropped steeply down into a

the village and the cultivated

her event.

Rosslyn Castle stands just inside the wood, its battered walls clinging to a pinnacle of spite its seemingly impregnable sacked on three occasions; twice the ruined courtyard, a delightful 17th-century house is home to the present Earl of Rosslyn who, another visitor inworking as a policeman in Slough. The scenario, it seemed, was growing ever more improbable.

Crossing back over the bridge, we followed steps down to the gully beneath its higharched span. The path clung to the side of the steep gorge, high

wooded glen, a secretive, wild spread its branches out over the water's edge we had to scramlandscape hidden deep below chasm. In the script that we were writing in our minds, this was the location for some wished that we had brought a picnic with us.

Our path was now descendge until sheer sandston their eroded faces sculpted into semi-human profiles. On the visible beneath its walls.

rushed around our boots. This, we both decided, was not a walk

As the valley widens, the ble for a footing as the torrent gorge gives way to open wood and pastureland. We left the river on the elbow of a sharp death-defying leap. We rather for those of nervous disposition. meander, climbing through Continuing downstream, we scrub and broom to a sandy a battlefield where, seven cen- and the spiralling Apprentice gradually regained height until ridge, scarcely wide enough to turies ago, Scots and English Pillar that, some say, illustrates it seemed that we walking walk along, that drops steeply armies clashed under the the double helix found in DNA. Jage six miles south of Edin- and reached only by a narrow ing ever deeper down into the through the topmost branches to the riverbanks below, with command of jealous knights. Stories tell of ancient relics, cliffs enclosed us on both sides, bank of the gorge, we saw a ian's rolling countryside. Turn-Gothic castle towering from ing left along a broader track, convoluted shapes and craggy, the cliff-edge, a gaping cavern .we found ourselves back in the ordinary world of fields and

modern cottages. But before musicians prance around the returning to our car, there were capitals. There are mysteries still elements of mystery and here aplenty; fruit from the romance to weave into our script. A cairn commemorates birth of Christopher Columbus There are the high fences and military-style buildings of the Roslin Institute, birthplace of masonic patterns scar the Dolly the cloned sheep. And dripping walls. there is Rosslyn Chapel.

This, we discovered, was scaffolding. Nothing we had buttresses, dancers and didn't seem believable.

New World carved before the itself, hidden deep beneath the gully. vaults. In the crypt, strange Back in the warmth and se-

curity of The Original Roslin still open underneath its web of Inn, we lunched off steak-andale pies and drank St Andrews read could prepare us for the beer whilst we reviewed our sight of its interior. Every inch script. Hermetic mysteries and of stone, from column bases to ruined castles, clones and highthe vaulted roof, is carved with born policemen, a lost world in figures, symbols and abstract a hidden gorge... all the eledesigns. Green Men and ments were there, but sitting in horned angels leer from the cosy bar, the story simply

The village of Roslin is signpost-

ed off the A701 six miles south Park by Rosslyn Chapel. From car

park, follow sign to castle and turn left between graveyards. Descend steps to right of bridge Beyond gully, fork right to follow

river's course for 1.5 miles As river bends to right, continue ahead uphill. Turn left at crosspaths by large beech tree and follow path along ridge. After 0.25 mile, turn left along major path At Battle of Roslin Cairn, continue along lane to the Original Roslin Inn.

Length: about four miles

Maps: Ordnance Survey Landranger 66 or Pathfinder 420



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temate, to share source unique fun. 172748

Male, tate 30a. GSOH, seeks long-term, loving friendship, with gentle, caring female, who is willing to share pood times and ife. 172708

OPERA LOVER

Male, 40, seeks lady compan-lon. Lincs area or London.

SLEEPLESS
N HARTFORD SHIRE
Cencerism male, 41, N/S, seeks
piscean/scopilo female, 35-45,
in need of T.C, let's share the

in need of ILC, etc's steep the together. 25/2710

Warm, withy, articulate. Christian businessman, 43, seeks Miss Personality, for tite and beyond Middands area. 15/2742

UPTOWN MAN

Professional. educated,

WOMEN SEEKING

ATTRACTIVE FEMALE ATTRACTIVE FEMALE
Warm, compasionate, caring,
b-lingual, slim female, 30s,
educated to degree level,
enjoys poetry, embroidery, creative writing, soeleng attractive,
warm, sincere, romantic, professional male, 35-45, for
briendship, possibly more.
72068 STOP! LOOK NO FURTHER

SOUTH SOMERSET.
Grod-looking, intelligent lady,
39, with positive file attitude,
seeks strong, fearless, honest.
N/S man, 35-49. Please be
handsome, please be kind,
please call! \$72959

STRIKING WOMAN
Tall lemale, late 30s, long dark
hair, seeks tall, strong, attractive male, for cherishing and a
pursuit of interesis; perhaps
lood 8 wine. Kert/SE 272936

SPIRITUALITY & SOCIALISM
Blonde, stractive female
English graduate, late 30s, who
loves books and potitics, seeks
genuine, withy male, who nuine. withy male, who ares the same interests and nors. London/Herts area.

Villon keynes Reds 192942 NORTHERN CELT NORTHERN CELT
Silm, attractive female, 40s,
dark hair, pale skin, green
eyes, scels intelligent, goodtoolung male, to share interests
in articinema, travel walking. in articulerna, travel walking, drinking, eating, London based. 272920 SEEKING A FRIEND

Divorced, sim, attractive university teacher & linguist, 43, 5'5", from West Yorkshire, loves

male, 35-50, N/S, with similar interests/background. \$2980 PEOPLE PERSON
Verv outgoing female, 46, medium build, 53". Illies swimming, eating outlin, dancing, socialising, music, theatre, good things in life, seeks male, 38-50, medium/large build, with good personality, for friend-ship/relationship. \$25271 good personamy, for mend-shib/relationship, 12:2971 CAN YOU VALUE ME? I am a contident and sincere, sophishicated, yet down-to-earth, attractive, 40-something female, looking for a valued male NW London/Cambridge, 17:2940

I'm educated, professional, stim, have wide horizons, active lifestyle. You will be similar and

Wales, 122972 COTSWOLD CUTIE torismoto corre-independent, smiley, caring woman, 51, seeks similar male, soul mare, for fundaughter/ smelling the roses. Oxfordshire based. \$2917 TALL BLONDE...

TALL SLONDE...
loves the arts, town 8 country, zen, salling, travel, jazz and glamour, seeks romance with warm, with male, up to 62.
London 272836
RUSICAL PARTNER
Creative musical, warm temale Creative, musical, warm female divorcee, lives in delightfut country cottage, enjoys music, theatre, gardening, seeks intel-

heatre, gardening, seeks intelligent soul male, 45-65, for lasting relationship. Cambridge area, 15/2824

RURAL GLOUCS & MOBILE

EXETER PROFESSIONAL Dark-haired, slim, articulate, independent, educated female, 55, 57, many interests, including travel, radio, cinema, literature, seeled like-minded male companion. 37:2384

MATELLIGENT

MAN PROVINCE

MAN REQUIRED MAN REQUERED
Cheerful, outgoing, reasonably
presentable lady, 61, 59',
GSCH, N/S, enjoys history,
reading, friends, seeks professional, reasonably presentable
male, 58+, 6', for friendship,
possible relationship, 25'288',
MAKE ME LAUGH
West, attractive sin apsour-Weem, attractive, slim, easygo-ing, London lady, enjoys most things in life, seeks confident, triendly, tall man, 50-80, for fun,

COMPANEONSMIPS GOOd-humoured, loving, kind, peaceful and understanding formate, seeks male, 72–80, any nationality, for infendaria, possi-ble relationship. London erea. ONE IN A MILLION Prolessional stylish, blac

ONE IN A MILLION
Protessional, stylish, black
temals, 510°, with GSOH,
seeks spontaneous male, 3339, N/S, for hur and romanee.
London. 252945
SIRSSEX LADY
Silm, attractive widow, 59,
marry interests, 518°, smart
appearance, seeks nice-tooking male, 55-70, for intendstrappicalionship. 252960
SENSE OF FUN?
Silm, Intelligent temale, 25,
blonde, green eyes, loves all
sport, theatre and socialising,
seeks attractive, professional
male, 24-35, with a sense of
adventure. London area.
252944

SEEKING SOUL MATE SEEKING SOUL MATE
Attractive, liths hemale, 27, 58", enjoys laughter, fun, music and a bit of a challenge, seeks male, with character, to share life's ups and downs. 182955
FIERY BRUNETTE
Attractive, intelligent female, 29, a little eccentric, very loving, adores animals, music, countryside, esoteric arts, having fun, seeks protective, humorous, intelligent, well-bred male, 35-42, to watch the stars. Glastonbury area. 182919
SINGLE LADY
Young lady, 29, enjoys music,

Young lady. 29, enjoys music, candlest dinners and wine, seeks romantic, attractive male, for friendship. Lance

Famele, 31, fixes music, books, cinema, seeks Oxford-educated, sociable, sincere, honest male, 30-38, should possess GSOH, for triendship and relaborship. Durham/London area. 22:2978

FANCY A CHALLENGE?
Outcoinc, Intellegent, ceruire. Outpoing, Intelligent, genuine, turnloving female. 34, 55°, enjoys acrebology, museums, clube, pubs, enjoys life to the hull, seeks tail, attractive, intelli-gent male, GSOH, with similar interests, for triendship, possi-hile relationship. 37:5344

PART NET FOR LIPET Stim, attractive, divorced, Aircan lady, 35, GSOH, with one som, varied interests, seeks genuine, kind, homest, roman-ic, lamily loving, protession-albusinessman, 40+, for long-term commitment. No time-western leases I motion amaterm commitment. No time-wasters please. London area. 15:2558

GORGEOUS CELLIST Intelligent, sitm temale, 35, seeks warm, communicative, professional male, to share cultural pursuits, country walks, interesting conversation. NW area. 17:29:18

GOOSEBERRY! Independent Intelligent, attrac-

Independent Intelligent, attractive, witty, thoughtful, sporty, unbitchy famale, 33, 5%, seeks

SEEKING
SOMEONE SPECIAL
Very attractive, stim, affectionate, lively, professional,
divorced lady, mid-30s, 516*, no
children, N/S, GSOH, Stee
countryside, walking, restaurants, chema, tun, seeks taker,
professional gent, under 45.
E.Lansan, Yorks area. \$72925
SEEKING WONDERFUL MAN SEEKING WONDERFUL MAN
Petite, affectionate & caring,
protessional lemale, young 36,
seeks handsome, intelligent
male, 35-45, for companion-

entphelationship. 13*2950

REDHEAD ROMANCE
Sim, the autum-haired female,
45, interested in the arts, theatretchema/ballet, stanted rock
climbing. Can anyone help?
Seelding affectionate, outgoing,
adventurous male, for friendstrip and romance. 272785
SEEKING
CAMEDINE SECONAL

SERGING
SOMEONE SPECIAL
Affectionate, tell, non-British, divorced, beautifut, fit ledy, enjoying own successful business and lovely cosy home, is still searching for you: fit, attractive, strong and sensitive male, 42-48, over 611. \$2716 male, 42-46, over 611. \$2718

ARTISTIC IN
SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE
Youthut, attractive, loving, prolessional musician, mid-40e,
with literary, theatrical, atternalive learnings and much more,
seeks similar, silm, sensitive
male, for whatever the future
may hold. \$22746

BUBBLY IN BRISTOL
Dark-skinned lemale, GSOH,
enjoys traveling, sport, theatra,
country puba, seeks gentleman, 45-65, for briendship and
maybe remance. \$2708

ISOLATED IN
OXFORDSHIRE
Vivacious, attractive, intelligent
woman, very young 53, 517,
slim build, seeks the company
of attractive, truthful male,

of attractive, truthful male, 5'9"+, similar age, for triend-ship/relationship. 12747 WARMTH IN WINTER Cuddly, (that means plump) female, mid-50s, adores family, lood, who, laughter and lowing, books, theatre, intelligent conversation, seeks comfortable male, with similar interests.

Attractive, intelligent, feisty, fun-loving, professional temale, young 50, seeks similar male, who will appreciate her charms and cultured taste. \$2721 Altractive, successful, Christian female, 29, seeks tall male, 28-32. GSOH, N/S, who likes going out and having fun. 17:2723

BRIDGET JONES
WARNABEE
Tall, blande female, anjoys tv,
eating chocolete, seeks kind.
funny, stightly wacky male, 30something, for nights in. Kent.
12:2737
EVERY BREATH LITAKE EVERY BREATH U TAKE Romantic, caring, African lady, mid-30s, loves cooking, wining, dancing, children, seeks caring male, 38-45, for long-term rela-

UNBREAK MY HEART
Intelligent, well-travelled, East
Indian female, 5', Trinided origin, great cook, seeks kind,
caring, considerate, white
male, 45-60, for friendship, maybe more. 182717 IS ANYBODY OUT THERE?



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COUNTRY LOVER COUNTRY LOVEN
Relaxed, attractive, countryloving lady, 44, leading quiet life
with dog, seeks tallish, educated, not average, solvent male,
up to 50, available for marriage.
Kent area, call again, disaster
with pravious messages.
TEPSAR

THE WORLD IS OUR TOY Attractive, kun-toving 8 caring, affectionate, warm, professional temale, seeks that special reliable, honest, professional revizione, nonesistoria maie, 40-55, for comparionalini, friendalnip and possible romance. 12:2535

OUT LOOKUNG!

Cultured, creative woman, wide life experience, seeks parimer, 50:sin. South Weles. 12:2502

DESCARRAGE & WESTERIO

50sh. South Weles. \$72502

DREAMING & WISHANG
Happy, slim, dark-halred,
attractive female, 50, anjoys
chema, countryside, diving
out, seeks honest, sincers, likeminded male, 45-65, for
omance and frendship.
Hampshire area. \$72529

FREST CALLER
Future. Sometimes outraseous.

Funny, sometimes outrageous, interesting, attractive woman, wonders if there is a man with wonders if there is a man with guts, its and imagination, who would like to meet. No under 50s, smokers or bores need apply. 172568 RED-HEADED NURSE

RED-HEADED NURSE
Silm, attractive, divorced,
aubum-haired nurse, mid-40s,
seeks attractive, N/S man, similar age, with warmth, wit, perception, for whalever unlocks,
N/W Kent/South London area. CIUDILY FEMALE
Caring, cuddly, petite temale,
40s, into everything, seeks
educated male, with GSOH, for
caring friendship. Anywhere.
#12526

Bubbly rechard, enjoys wine, cooking; cinema, gardening, wine, seeks protessional, adventurous, humorous, honest, lively male, 50-55. No drunks need apply!! 972520

Professional female graduate, 31, works in medical profes-sion, seeks professional male, doctor/favyer/similar, 40-50, must love log lires, animals and good food. \$22537

DO YOU THE HAVE THE NERVE?

Talk, attractive, NW England lemale, 32, seeks sane cross between Hannibal Hayes and Harry Hill, lorevert \$22510

CAMBRIDGESHIRE
REDHEAD
Attractive, red-headed temale,
thinty-something, juggling
careers and kide, seeks eimliar
male, for red wine and conver-sation. \$22525 exterior and warm Interior. We can talk about music, art & walk for miles. London. 12:2506

SEEKING WOMEN

MUSLIM MAN Genuine, trustworthy, muslim male, 33, enjoys the good things in life, seeks honest, attractive, thin female, 20-30, for triendship, possible marriage. 37:2921

TIDE AGAINST THE SHORE LOST AND FOUND
Male actor, 34. seeks sincere
lemale, any age/nationality, for
long-term relationship. London.
1372349

STARTING AGAIN Male, 35, lost most triands due to divorce, seeks Wirral female, for friendship and whatever the future holds. \$22953 LOADS OF BAD HABITS!
Slim, caring, kind, attractive
male, 35, smoker, good eyes,
GSOH, into sport, cinema,
music, cooking, seeks slim,
attractive female, GSOH
essential, for intendship/relationship. \$2970

GENUINE AND CARING Easypoing, tail, silm male grad-uate, 35, likes restuarants, bars, London life, seeks down-to-serth, attractive ternale, 22-32, N/S, for friendshap, possible relationship. \$72990 HARRISON FORD

Outgoing, happy-go-lucky male, \$5, 5*11", enjoys cinema, theatre, reacting, travel, music, seeks attractive, intelligent, shrigle lemale, 23-35, with similar interests, for friendship/relationship. London erea. 1272914 LOG FIRES & ICE-CREAM Genuine, tunny but sensitive, Northern, professional male, 36, 511", enjoys deep conver-

sation, music, travel, country-side, seeks intelligent, smart, chatty, bubbly ternale, 26-38, GSOH, NS, ethinety unimpor-tant, for lasting hieradshiphela-tionship. East Midlands. 27:2983 SMALL BUNDLES OF ROMANCE Professional, white male gradu-ste, 37, N/S, seeks petite, sim, quiel-natured, Asian female, 26-36, for quality time and car-

DIFFERENT DRUM BEAT Would you enjoy being treated with consideration, kindness, with consideration, kindness, respect, in a relationship based upon trustifiendehip? It so, this slightly deliktusioned, yet ever optimistic male would love to hear from you. London area.

WONDER AT IT ALL Travelling, thinking, dreaming, reading, rock & blues loving. smoking, drinking, laughing, tal. it, lefty cyclist, late 30s, seaks bright, attractive lemale, to share laughter and romanos. Bristol/SW area. 272918 TALL AND HANDSOME Exclusion fit male 36 GSOM

Fun-loving, fit male, 39, GSOH, seeks sincere, stim, beautiful lady, 20s, for wining, chang, coastal walks, true nomance. coastal walls, true romance.
Cambridge area. 13:2927
TRIPESISTIBLE ZEST
Creative, black male graduate,
39, errjoys art, history, politics,
conversation, jazz, laughter
and dance, seeks intelligent,
warm, creative temale, 30-40
with zest, for good times.
London area. 12:2911
MELLOW MAN
Laid-back, creative, wry,

Laid-back, creative, wry,
Australian academic, 41, 5'8',
N/S, seeks smart, kunny, independent temale, 38-45.
Midlands and bayond. 272:854

LONDON LEO
Leo male, 42, 6', works in pubisting, N/S, loves dancing, particularly ceroof/cajun, into meditation, t'ai chi. healing, massage, seeks !emale, 33-40,
with/without children, proferably N/S, for loving and corn-

ably N/S. for loving and com-mitted relationship. 27:2965

NORFOLK KNIGHT Easygoing male, 43, 5"1", NS, average build, GSOH, loves the Norlork coast, sport, music, good lood, line ale, great conversation, seeks similar lady, for irrandship, relationship, posether more \$2000. stbly more. 122967 HUGS LOST & FOUND?

LAKELAND MALE.

Caring and failthis, spiritual and unconventional, single dad, 46, seeks attractive female, 35-45, for a leating, loving relationship. HUDDERSFIELD ROCK? Very well-travelled, onthustastic male, suitable for outdoors & Indoors, seeks female, 30+, Yorkshire area, for more than just Christmas. \$72341 TRY MEI

HOPELESS ROMANTIC Sensitive, romantic male, 52, outrageous sense of humour, Berkshire country dweller, likes Africa in the winter, music, has everything in life except like-minded, special lady. 172988

Any Queries?

I put fould from the present as cooling counts of on least heaville. Senior, plant and IRE on 6800 216 318.

OUTGOING
ROMANTIC CREATIVE
Outgoing, sim male, 40s, 61°.
NS, GSOH, enloys cycling,
walking and climbing, seeks
sim, active ternale, 30-45, NS,
with similar interests, for hierdstrip, possible romance. Derby MAKE ME SMILE

TRAVELLER
Understanding, sorbad, heating, in, spontaneous, bright, N/S, unconditional, unconventional, young-minded main, 53, with looks, doing something with his life, likes boats, honest therefore won't disappoint you. Risk it, call me. Based Glos. 37:2985
OUTDOOR INTERESTS
Silm, professional male, 33, enjoys nock dimbing, hill walking, seeks temale, similar interess. Manchester or NW area. 37:2758 TRAVELLER

ORIENTAL FEMALE

ORIENTAL FEMALE

Fit, caring, romantic mele, 34, 510°, seeks Oriental/Asian, fit, silm and preity ilemale, for hiendship and romance. T2744

LIFE IN THE BUS LANE
West Yorkshire male, 34, likes theatre, cinema, walking, gigs, seeks leiflow female passanger, for furn times. \$72741

INDEPENDENT READER
Non-grumpy male. 34, 6°, enjoys walking, countryside. conservation, swimming, reading, seeks talkish, attractive female graduate, 23-30, for trendship/relationship. East Midands. \$72726

ARE YOU ALONE?

Me too! I'm a deaf, N/S, affectionate, caring, honest, attractive, black felia, 35 but looks 25, from Nottingham, GSOH, seeks white/Asian/Italian tady, 25-46, must be full of romance. \$72734

CROSS COUNTRY CHARMS Friendly, honest, warm, caring, trelligant male, 30s, 6', GSOH, consolving smolest article trav-CAKE NEEDS ICING Attractive, fit, 40-something male, seeks polite famale, to share all times with, also friend-ship and fun. West Midlands. 772948 Prentoy, Intelligent male, 30s, 6', GSOH, occasional smoker, enjoys travelling, cineme, music, cross country driving, seeks kindhearted, intelligent, preferably Askan fermale, 25-35, with similar interests, for intendshiphelationship. \$2753

TIME FOR A CHANGE Easygoing male, 37, enjoys conversation, eating, drinking, hill walking, reading, seeks lemale, to share shove things, news jun. \$22748

VISUAL ARTIST
Male postgraduate, 46, N/S.
aspiring polymath, seeks intelligent, creative, teotile, younger,
unattached temals, for possible
sentous relationship. Hampshire/
Surrey borders. 10:2988

TRY MEI
Caring, thoughtful, professional
male vegetarian, 48, GSOH,
N/S, enjoys cooling, five music,
carema, etc., seeks geruinz
female, almilar interrests, ior
friendship, possible relationship. Leeds, West Yorkshire
ered. 17/2933

HOPELESS ROMANTIC
Sensitive, romentic muse, 52,

UPTOWN MAN
Professional, educated,
Christian male, 40, part-time
dad, sim, youthul, energetic,
passionate, enjoys music,
vasidno, cycling, swimming,
saeks female compenion, to
share Ille and Interests.

EACK TO BASICS
Attractive male, young 46, 56°,
sim build, enjoys allemative
therapies, spiritual file, cycling,
cournyside, seeks sim temale
sout male, 33-44, NS, for lasting relationship, London area.

HTISH MALE
Attractive, sincere, professional
male, 23, 5"11", enjoys sports,
chema, art, eating out, seeks
attractive, genuline temale, 2230, for friendship, possible relationship. 27:2968

BATHLONDON
Well-adjusted, sim, tail, cultured, affectionate, sincere,
mature gentleman, seeks a
happy, intelligent and affectionste lady, to enjoy the simple
pleasures of life, in a loving
relationship. 27:2961 Sorry, no Ferrarlyacht, but VGSOH, and house-trained, likes music, theatre, foreign travel, seeks fernale, with same interests, 30-40, must have GSOH, N/S. Beth area. relationship. 122961
ALTERNATIVE L'AMOUR? ALTERNATIVE L'AMOUNT Kind, easygoing, attractive, professional, fill, indian mele, 38, 6°, enjoys laughing, yoga, alternative therapy, theatre, travel, seels sim/medium-built, warm lemsle, any nationality, for romance. London/SE area.

for romance. London/SE area.

12:2978

LOVE, FUN AND AVAE ABLE

Prolessional, sensitive, hopelessly romantic, tail, silm, fit
make, young-looking 49,
GSOH, loves setting, crinking,
most other things, seeks happy,
attractive female, tait 30s to
early 40s. Herts/London/SE
area. 12:2982

WALK WITH ME

Powys gent, 50s, seeks spirited

NEW IN LONDON music, good food & wine, pub-bing & clubbing, seeks similar

MOTORWAYS OF LOVE MOTOHWATS OF LOVE
Outgoing, easygoing, triendly,
single dad, 25, smoker, enjoystrally car driving, social drinking,
seeks similar, carving, understanding ferraise, 25-55, must
like children, for friendship,
seeks more. Nawcaste-unonmaybe more. Newcaste-upon-Tyne erea. 172915 CALLING LONDON

Genuine male graduate, 22, lices Eddie Izzard, FIEM, pubs, seeks similar female, 22-30, for nights in/out around London. 37:2907

MIDLANDS MAN MIDLANDS MAN
Sincere, loyal, romantic, medigent, good-looking, withy male,
28, 6°, enjoys theatre, dining
out, walking, cineme, conversation, seeks similar texnele, no
tied, for fun, friendship/relationselve, will travel. 27.2943 ship, will travel. 122943 BITE MY REALITY BUBBLE BITE NY REAL TO NON testin, Rose pulse, clubs, Friday night tv. sesies cultured female, for rigniship and movie marathons. North based. 172910

LONDON MALE
Easygoing 8 intelligent mate,
29, 55°, into the arts, cornedy
and cinema, seeks female, for
tun end maybe more. T2948
HANDSOME GENTLEMAN
Solvent male, 30, 57°, dark
helr, muscular build, GSOH,
own home/car, good career,
seeks slim, attractive, intelligent lemale, for tun and hiendship. W. Yorkshire area.
T29222

SEEKING

OMETHING LASTING
Gay male, 50s, 5', good build, seeks male friend, chunky build, who enjoys sharing the arts, walking, conversation, travel, for lasting triandship.
17:2339

GRADUATE ... GRADUATE...

straight-acting, 24, 5'5",
GSOH, seeks professionel,
turn-loving male. Brighton/
Coest. \$\frac{\text{T2952}}{\text{GOOD-LOOKING MALE}} blue, enjoys swimming, cinema, seeks male, 18-25, hopefully for a relationship. \$2963 NATUROPHILE

LONDON LIVING Professional male, 31, seeks good-looking male, 21-35, with wit, charm and a bright, roman-tic outlook, London, \$22947

JUST FRIENDS UNUSUAL ACTIVITIES Lively lemale, enjoys formal dancing, pubs, clubs, serous

female friends, around 35-45, for stimulating conversation. socialising & unusual pastimes activities, such as boxing events/dog races. 272964

THE WORLD ON A BUDGET Male, 18. seeks male/female travelling companion, for 6-month round-the-world trip, encompassing India, SE Asia, Australia & USA, also trekting In Negal/Tibet. 23/2977

NEW FRIENDS WANTED

Otherien triperdy male 30s. Outgoing, friendly male, 30s, interested in travel, enjoys nights outlin, socialising, conversation, seeks female/male, age/area un/important, for inendistip/travel, 72720

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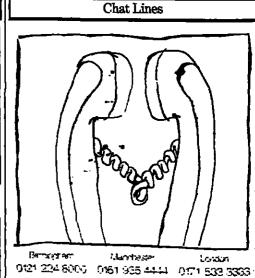
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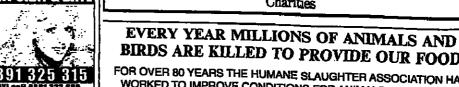






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1.5

He sprinted for the try-line – but ran into a snowman built by the opposing full-back



ROWBOTTOM ON BEING IN THE RIGHT

PLACE

One of the secrets of success in - It-had been built by the op-- sible lines I might use for a fol-

A little guidebook* to the sport of rugby union reached me this week, containing some examples of what can happen when one of these variables

In 1975, for instance, Ireland organised a centenary tour to New Zealand which included a warm-up game in Fiji. When they arrived in Fiji. the Irish tourists discovered the Fijian (cam was also on tour in New Zealand, Right time, wrong place.

Then there was the winger who played for Villeneuve in a 1974 French club game against Villiers les Nancy. With his side 65-3 down, he intercepted a pass and sprinted for the tryline - but ran into a snowman. Heathrow, I reviewed the pos-

sport - in life two - comes down posing full-back during his to this: right place, right time. many spare moments. Right place, wrong time,

Another Frenchman, Jean Salut, tripped on the steps up to the pitch as he ran out for his international debut in 1969. breaking his ankle. He never played for France again. Simple bad luck that, But to return to the theme.

Right place, right time. There have been moments in my life when I have experienced that strange, calm certainty. Fornebu airport in Oslo,

three months ago. The previous evening, Haile Gebrselassic of Ethiopia had kept his word and regained the world 5,000 metres record. As I made my way to the gate for an early flight back to night. Great run."

low-up story.

If was not an encouraging exercise. The deadlines had been such that I and most of my colleagues had not been able to attend the post-race press conference. Someone, 1 suddealy recalled, had a tape of it. Who was that person? Ah yes. That person was the person who was flying straight on to Stockbolm. Wrong place, wrong time.

What I needed, it had to be said, in an ideal world, with the wind behind me, what I really needed was to speak with Haile Gebrselassie. Turning 180 degrees, I saw

a thin figure in a tracksuit standing on his own, his teeth impossibly white, "Haile," I said, "Congratulations on last

"Thank you," he said, very

into dazzling fullness. I asked him about his plans for the rest of the season...

It seemed mystical. It was, in retrospect, almost logical the world record breaker was catching an early morning flight back to his Dutch training base, and I had simply got lucky.

But my Twickenham experience. That was mystical.

Accepting the offer of tickets for the 1981 Twickenham Sevens seemed like a fine idea lord played for Richmond, who were defending the title, and a party with his wife and her parents, we thought: why not?

Why not only became clear after we had committed ourselves both to the outing and the kind offer of a lift from the

ets arrived a couple of weeks later I registered what I took to be a ghastly clerical error.

The date for rughy's end-ofseason event - May 9 - appeared to clash with that paramount occasion in the British sporting calendar: the

1981 FA Cup final. A brief enquiry of the resident defending champion confirmed the worst. The times were

out of joint. Oh, wretched spite. I tried. I tried until 3.00pm. at the time. My girlfriend's land-that wasn't too hard. I tried after 3,00pm, watching London Irish against Saracens - or was when he suggested we made up it Wasps? - weaving their way over the Wembley, sorry, Twickenham turf.

A request from the father -"any chance of a beer?" - detached me from the dutiful gathering. I like to think good

quietly, the half-smile widening parents-in-law. When the tick-manners would otherwise have kept me there. They wouldn't, but I like to think they would.

Drifting behind the stand and past the bar, I was drawn insinctively to the Twickenham car

What I needed, it had to be said, in an ideal world, with the wind behind me, what I really needed was a television set.

Turning 90 degrees, I noticed a white marquee. Inside were many rows of plastic scats. all empty, all facing a little table on which stood a television set showing the 1981 FA Cup final.

One's first instinct in such transcendent moments is to expect life to throw out its grappling hooks. Excuse me sir. can I help you?" That is what I expected to hear. "Are you with the main party?" That is what I expected to hear.

But all I heard was the rising excitement in Barry Davies's (or was it John Mot-

son's?) voice as Tommy Hutchison gave Manchester City a 1-0 lead over Tottenham. I thought: I'll just stay until half-time. At half-time I thought: I'll just stay until full

time. At full-time I thought; I'll

just stav until extra-time. Towards the end of the match, some rugby people craned their heads round the doorway and jeered - genteely, "What kind of a game do you call that?" I felt able to smile indulgently.

Soon afterwards, a young lady in a white apron came in and offered me a bottle of cold beer. It came at the right time. And I knew the right place for it. *Heineken's 14 Men and a Hooker - 0171 237 5333.

Pickard teaching Rusedski to convert his chances

ny Pickard is back on the tennis circuit as coach to Greg Rusedski. He believes the British No I has left Tim Henman behind and is ready for another push towards the very top.

Tony Pickard's studious face used to be one of the few British features at the major championships. Stefan Edberg's invigorated former coach has returned with Greg Rusedski to spice a simmering international casserole.

1.1

Rivalry? What rivalry? "I think Rusedski's left Henman behind now," Tony Pickard asserted. "Well, he has for a year, that's for sure."

Pickard has been Greg Rusedski's mentor for the best part of a month, initially by telephone, having answered the call following the dismissal of the American Brian Teacher, who in 16 months guided Rusedski up the rankings and into the final of the United States Open.

A week ago, with Pickard in attendance, Rusedski defeated Tim Henman in straight sets in the semi-finals of a Tour event in Vienna. It was the Canadian-born left-hander's first success in four matches against the 23-year-old from Oxford.

Rusedski is No 5 in the world, Henman No 19, and Pickard expects his charge to selves winning. I don't think they're worcontinue to pull rank, at least "until the US Open, when Greg's got to perform again". le added, "He's got the whole of the year In to Wimbledon when he's defending nothing, so he's got a great chance to build a fantastic foundation for 1998 before 1998 is half-way gone."

Having paused for breath, Pickard and Rusedski travel to Stuttgart today for next week's \$2.3m (£1.5m) Eurocard Open, in pursuit of points to secure a place in the eightman ATP Tour Championship in Hannover. Henman is also due to play in Stuttgart.

"Nothing would be greater than if young Henman started to hit a few more balls into court and got in the top 10," Pickard said. "That would be simply fantastic for us."

Use of the royal "we" is a Pickard idioyncrasy from his long and successful association with Sweden's Stefan Edberg and his three-year stint as Britain's Davis Cup captain. "I got fed up with the politicking in the Davis Cup, because that's not my scene," the 63-year-old from Nottingham said.

Before his acrimonious split with the Lawn Tennis Association, Pickard brought Henman into the Davis Cup squad. Pickard's description of him, "the one bright shining light", was supposed to be off the record but quickly gained circulation.

"He was the only one we had," Pickard recalled. "Rusedski wasn't even here then, and Henman was the one that looked as though he had it. And, let's face it, up until just before the US Open Tim was still the one who was ranked No 1 in England. It's grely this past four, five, six weeks that it's been rned. And it's a big leap. Now all that people can hope for here is that Rusedski stays where he is and Henman tries to get to him."

Not that Pickard adheres to the conventional view of rivalry. "Competition is going to have to hire somebody to teach him a great thing." he said, "but it is a very individualistic game and I don't really think me not being able to scout opponents."

1024

1 Goran Ivanisevic

2 Richard Krajicek

3 Greg Rusadski

7 Pete Sampras

9 Petrick Rafter

10 Tim Henman

2 Pets Sampras

3 Richard Krajicek

4 Goran Ivanisavic

4 Mark Philippoussis 828

5 Marc Kevin Gostner 569

8 Alex Radulescu 512

8 Magnus Norman 491

Service games won P/cent

1 Greg Rusedski . . 92 -

SILVER SERVICE: THE STATISTICS

6 Thomas Enqvist

7 Patrick Rafter

8 Brett Steven

9 Tim Henman

10 Magnus Larsson

2nd serve won

1 Michael Chang

2 Greg Rusedeld

3 Marcelo Rios

4 Albert Costa

5 Thomas Muster

6 Pete Sampras

7 Guillaume Raoux

8 Vincent Spedea

9 Brett Steven



Pickard: 'Rusedski impressed me'

either Rusedski or Henman think about one another when they go on the court to play a tennis match. I think they're thinking about their own performance and themwhether he's losing.

"The only time they look at one another possibly is when they play one another and when they look in a morning to see who's

BY JOHN **ROBERTS**

won and lost. I know everybody keeps writing this business about the competition between the two of them, but I think it's all hypothetical."

Much of the credit for Rusedski's rise above Henman is due to Teacher, Pickard acknowledged. "Brian's obviously done a damn good job, and there's no taking that away from him," he said.

The Californian coaxed Rusedski to work so hard improving his groundstrokes last Christmas that Rusedski's hand blistered. Teacher then sustained Rusedski's confidence after a wrist injury interrupted a splendid week in San Jose in February during which he had defeated Michael Chang and Andre Agassi back-to-back in straight sets and taken the first set off Pete Sampras before retiring in the final.

Teacher says he was not exactly showered in praise. "After the final in San Jose," he recounted, "Tom Rusedski [Greg's father | said to me, 'Hey, you are on first base'. Then, following the US Open, where Rusedski lost to Australia's Pat Rafter in the final, Teacher said he received anothbase with Greg's serve return and he was

10= Jonas Bjorkman 52

2 Greg Rusedski

4 Pete Samoras

6 Tim Henman

3 Goran Ivanisevic

5 Mark Philippoussis 81

7 Marc-Kevin Goeliner 80

10 Thomas Engvist

Finally, Teacher said, Rusedski telephoned him midway through the Grand Slam Cup in Munich, saying, "Thanks for the help, but I'm under no obligation after the Open."

Pickard said he was taken by surprise when asked to step in. "Tennis has been in my blood for most of my life, but I wasn't looking to go back on the Tour. I've got nothing to prove to anybody. Rusedski approached me, impressed me with his ambition, and that's what swayed me to say, 'Yes, OK, we'll give it a go for a year and see how it goes'. It certainly wasn't anything else that attracted me back."

Rusedski's 143 mph serve is the fastest ever recorded on the ATP Tour, and coaching him must be akin to a mechanic fine-tuning Thrust. Rusedski may not have Rolls-Royce engines, but there is more to his game than raw power.

Frew McMillan, commentating on Eurosport, has compared Rusedski's backhand volley to the master strokes of John McEnroe, Tony Roche and Rod Laver. Teacher hroadened Rusedski's groundstroke game, and Pickard's aim is to continue the all-round improvement in performance and strategy.

The latest ATP Tour statistics display Rusedski's name prominently in various categories of service game leaders. He has won more service games (92 per cent) than anybody else. He is second only to Richard Krajicek, the 1996 Wimbledon champion, in points won on his first serve and to Michael ried whether the other guy's winning or Chang, the great retriever, in winning points off his second serve. Only Goran Ivanisevic has saved more break points than Rusedski, who is third in the aces count (841) behind Ivanisevic (1024) and Krajicek (862).

In spite of a marked improvement in his service returns, however, Rusedski does not rate a mention among the return of serve leaders. Pete Sampras, the world No 1, has converted most break points (49 per cent).

"All the guys that were good enough to become No 1 in the world had that wonderful capability of converting chances," Pickard emphasised. "And that's basically what its all about, converting chances.

"All right, the younger guys that are coming on the block now, they're learning how to convert chances, and they're learning that it's not as easy to convert chances as it was when they were playing in the smaller Tour events and against the lower ranked players.

"If you play the top guys all the time, you need Sampras's experience. What's Sampras now, 26? Well, he's got two years longer stuck on his shoulders. So, OK, there's a period of time when the younger guys have got to learn how to convert. And the ones that start to convert first are the ones that are going to end up at the top of the ranking list. It's as simple as that.

"The state of the situation in the top 10 in the world right now is wide open - I mean, apart from Sampras it's wide open. Sampras is definitely above the other guys, but that doesn't mean he's going to stay there. It's terrific for the young guys, for all of them, not just for Greg. It's good for Rafter, it's good for the Spaniards, it's good for Henman. The door's open."

Pickard is not planning to be back on er assessment. "Tom said I was still on first the road every week, but intends to accompany Rusedski to the four Grand Slams and the top events on the ATP Tour. The man who knows all about slices and chips has not become a coach potato.

2 Greg Rusedski

3 Thomas Muster

6 Magnus Norman

7 FlichardKrajicek

8 Jan Siemerink

9 Galo Blanco

10 Patrick Refter

5 Mark Philippoussis 67

4 Brett Steven

Break pts saved: P/cent Match

The statistics include every match

played on the ATP Tour and Grand

Slams. These are the standings as

of 13 October, all the players hav-

ing completed a minimum of 32





Rusedski's service is now in the big league, according to ATP statistics, though he has yet to make a similar impression in the return of serve categories Photograph: David Ashdown

SPORT ON THE **INTERNET**

Williams lead

FI web race With the Formula One

world championship to be decided next weekend in Jerez, motor racing's wide array of web sites are likely to be particularly busy over the next week. As Williams dominate

on the track with their cars, so the best web sites for the teams are Rothmans Racing, which has all the Williams information. and Renault.

The Rothmans' site has details on all the tracks, reports on this year's races, which manage to be objective, technical spees of the cars and Villeneuve's and Frentzen's diaries for each race.

Renault covers similar ground, but has a good links section to other related sites. Williams is also involved in the Autoweb'97 which carries both up-to-the-minute news, an archive of news through the season and pieces on all the drivers.

Another good site is Gale Force F1 which carries all the expected reports, but in addition does have some 1997 season, including most crashes (Eddie Irvine 5). most unreliable car (Stewart - 25 breakdowns) and most completed laps (Jean Alesi followed, surprisingly, by Mika Salo).

Many of the circuits have their own web sites as well with Monaco and Silverstone two of the better

Various drivers have unofficial web sites, with the late Avrion Senna the most popular with 10 sites, followed by Jacques Villeneuve with seven and Michael Schumacher and Damon Hill with five.

At the Ayrton Senna Memorial site you can even get your Ayrton Senna Master Card. Somehow I can't quite imagine Damon Hill's face adding to your credit rating.

For those who find Formula One rather too slow for their taste, then they can always log in to the Thrust site to read about the supersonic exploits in the Nevada desert. Edward Abelson

ADDRESSES

Autoweb'97 http://icnsportsweb.com/PUB-LIC/F1ENG/ONLINEL.HTML Rothmans Racing http://www.connect.ca/formula1/ http://www.renaultf1.com/ Gale Force F1 http://www.monaco.mc/f1/ F1 Online http://www.f1-online.com/ Ferrari Official FIA site http://www.fia.com/ Ayrton Senna Memorial http://www.asenna.com.br/ingles/ http://thrustssc.digital.co.uk/ Silverstone http://www.silversione index.htm Monaco

32

NEWMARKET 2.55 TOTE CESAREWITCH (HANDICAP) (CLASS B) C4 HYPERION 4.10 Pilsudski 1.40 Casherme Lady 2.15 Elnadim (nb) 4.45 Virtuous 5.20 SHELTERING SKY (nap) 2.55 Motet 3.30 Tamarisk GOING: Good to Soft (fresh strip of ground under stands rails). STALLS: Stands add except 2.55 - far side. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None Right hand course with Im2i straight. ● Right-hand course with mich straight. ● Course is SW of town on A1304. Bus link from Cambridge and Newmarket stations. ■ Course is SW of town on A1304. Bus link from Cambridge and Newmarket stations. ■ Manual Course is SW of the SW o 1.40 ROTHMANS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH SERIES FINAL HANDICAP (CLASS B) 250,000 added 1m 237,613 1996: Hawksley HB 3 9 ft K Fallon 11-2 fav (Mrs J Ramsden) drawn (16) 27 ran 2.15 CHALLENGE STAKES (Group 2) (CLASS A) C4

		Erojavo dudeu zili zi Felizity value 153,498
1	-14101	CANON CAN (USA) (37) (D) (Canon O A Ltd H Cool 4 100
2		
3	IIIIZZ	PERMA CIAM (USAU (23) (LR (ISA) (K Abdries), Granton (I D) Pottoni 1 U 107
4		
5	20001	I VIT VEEZ 1231 IN 2 NATOREN MES J ROMANIEN 7 3 19 1 Evolution 4E 111
6	VTIIII	MANAGORU 12/1 (PREDISIR AL MINITIAN IL IL INFO A R 72 P. MINITIAN A R 74 D.C.
7	CESTIE	CLUOU PROPERTY OF AN AMERICAN CONTRACT OF A STATE OF A
В	INChes	CAPTIANT JACK (62) (JAN D STIM) M PION 7 8 9. C Doctor 10 111
8	UPPLE	11/44/65-UNL (USA) (90) (Sévingur Cohni Mis A Pierrit 6.87 J. Pield 7.1/0
10	1,000	PROPERTY (14) OT IT IT PRINCE HANG SERMENT P COLE 5 R K TOWN 8 104
Ħ	STAILED!	MCACALLOCAL (18) (CD) (F J Carlet) J King 6 8 4 R Phoneh 1st 29 112
2	01040-	IYUN S MUTTER (2006) NY IMPRON'I D Fiscorth 8.8.2 T Govern 5 1/1/1
13	177455	NACEL'S LAD DONGO IN C DIMINAMAN P Hadro E B 9 Process 6 449
74	1500	PING MAGE (21) & USING ADMIN M JONGSON 781 . 1 F From 92 115
5	OHEZI	SERVE FEBRUARS CORRS DETROUGH S G WIESting 4.7 17 Mortin Desert 17 111
18	والتونيق	STOPPLEY SUE (25) (Grandend Prox Lith M. Inhatine 4.7 th V. Arlenne g. 102
7	421200	HUSSERF HUSE (20) (Ash Partnership) Toler 4.7 1]
18	343401	UNEFOURNSEMENTHS (D) (J) (J) FOUNDMENT J L EVEN A 7 11 T MARKETTE 28 1/10
В	2422	MOJET (20) (LD (A E LUCHATHAMAT) (5 WARCH 3.7 III
20	222	TLERPOLE (24) (\$ Mrs W J Williams) Mrs M Pavalov 87 10
21	-34110	TURRIPOLE (20) (8 Ms W J Williams) Ms M Faveley 6 7 10 L Chemock 6 706 VALAGALORE (35) (8F) (Ms A D Bourne) B Hilly 3 7 10 P Fessery (2) 13 709
22	325109	THE FLUTHER PROPERTY AND A PARTY HARRY HARRY IN TARRELAND BY A DESCRIPTION AS A SAME OF THE PARTY AS A SAME OF THE
23	355281	SEA VICTOR (8) (J Dend Abell) J L Henrs 5 7 10
24	500623	ETTERBY PARK (24) (Mr & Mrs G Middlebrook) M Johnston 4 7 10 N Cartista 31 102
25	-00001	IVICAN CLANCER (19) (Damond Racing Life) J L Sura 4 7 th
35	Market 1	SCALANGER (SU) IUI: CAR HOU H Alemand R7 40 D Distriction R7 49 4/15
27	332.2	HERE COMES HEREE (71) (H.S. Huttinson) W. Stone 5.7 (1) E. Johann St. 103
æ	3130360	USYMBU CRU (29) (A)9) SORMO LID J. CHÉNAN 6.7-10 TO WALLES 14 100
29	50555	SALSKA (14) (P. L Cártico) A Streeter 6 7 10
30	2201-0	GREAT SASEBY (25) (D C Batery) W Storey 7 7 10
31	1475201	
20	45115	AZTEC RIYER (USA) (20) (R Mescath) C British 4 7 10 A Polit (5) 22 98
46-	المريد ومربط	- 32 telegrep - pt: 7st 10th. True handicap weights: Valegalore 7st 9th, The Phing Phanton 7st 7th, Sea
	muse 1964 or 7st 7fb	pric var flug. Intel remained Weigneit: Vellegeliche 7st 90, 1he Flying Prentine 7st 7th, Sea Elearby Perk 7st 6th, Totem Denner 7st 6th, Shedirwen 7st 4th, Here ComesHeuble 7st 2th,
G	errerren eri Cen Zel	1 h., Salska 7st, Great Easaby Gat 13th, Tomony Tomoige Gat 12th, Aziac Piyer Gat 9th.
OF S	TTING-11.	- 12 Top Coes, 7-1 Canon Can, 8-1 Media Star, 10-1 Manager del 1220, Aziec 14ye 1857 910.
-	11 ma. 11	a representation of the property of the proper

BETTING: 11-2 Top Cees, 7-1 Canon Can, 8-1 Nadia Star, 10-1 Mensared, Motel, 14-1 Captain Jack, Merk, 16-1 Token Dence, 20-1 Inchcellioch, Valagalora, Go Britannia, Sweetness Hernelf, Turn-pols, Onafourseven, 25-1 Eletrity Park, Cloud Inspector, Transam, 30-1 others 1998: Inchcalloch 7 7 3 R Firench (7) 20-1 (J Kingl drawn (6) 26 ran FORM GUIDE:

The well handicapped Top Cees can best those above him in the weights, but there's an improving filty getting 16b from him in the shape of VALAGALORE, whose run at Don-caster last time can be totally forgothen. The staying promise was shown earlier with wins at Catterick and Haydock where today's apprentice Paul Fessey got on so well with her. Top Cees, a close that to Old Red two years ago, has never been better. He managed to win over a trip short of his best at Ayr last time and can reverse Goodwood and Ebor Handicap form with Media Star (best on fast ground) on this more suitable surface. Canon Can, a close third in this last year, won the Concester Cup last time but was beaten out of sight by Top Cees in the Chester Cup. Miswared has been cleaning up on the faster ground and now faces a stern test at levels with Top Cees on a more exacting surface.

Selection: VALAGALORE

[3	3.30	THOROUGHBRED CORP DEWHURST STAKES (Group 1) (CLASS A) £100,000 2YO 7f £59,477
1	411	CENTRAL PARK (80) (D) (H R H Prince Faind Selman) P Cole 9 0
2	Ħ	DAGGERS DRAWN (USA) (36) (D) (Cireden Stud) H Cecil 9 0 K Fallon 3 1/5
3	125	DESERT PRINCE (95) (Lucayan Sura D Loder 9 0
4	211	IMPRESSIONIST (45) (D) (Mrs John Magnier) A P O'Bnen (M) 9 0 M J Kirsme 2 114
5	2	PEGNITZ (USA) (20) (B H Voald C British 90
6	m	TAMAFRISK (18) (CD) (Highclere Racing) R Cheston 9 0
7	121	XAAR (26) (D) (K Abdullah) A Fabre (Fr) 90 O Pesiler 1 118
		=7 declared =

BETTING: 7-4 Katr, 9-4 Daggers Drawn, 5-1 Central Park, 11-2 Tamarisk, 12-1 Desert Prince, 14-1 Impressionists, 50-1 Peguitz
1998: In Command 9 0 M Hills 10-1 (8 Hills) drawn (2) 8 nm
FORMI GUIDE

XAAR can emulate his sire Zafonic, who threshed Inchinor in this five years ago. Zafonic progressed to cruse home from Baratinea in the 2,000 Guineas – all this after his win in the Prix de ISalamandra, a race his talented-son took in style last month. News from the gallops is that Daggers Drawn is loving the rain-softened ground. Daggers Drawn has yet to display the class of Xaar, but is unbeaten after twice getting himself out of trouble with a powerful late thrust. Central Park has had a blood disorder since he best the decent filly Cape Verdi in the Chesham at Royal Ascot (7t). What with the layoff and being more suited now to further than seven furlongs, Central Park will do well to handle Xaar's turn of foot. Tamarisis has been supplemented for the race and has certainly looked decent, admittedly against interior rivate than today's.

Selection: XAAR

4	.10	DUBAI CHAMPION STAKES (Group 1) (CLASS A) £400,000 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £236,320
1	8-4805	BUOU (79/DE (21) (J S Morreon) M Johnston 4 9 2
2	2222	PLSUDSKI (13) (D) (Lord Weinsteck) M Strute 5 9 2
3	TII-24	BAHHARE (USA) (21) (Hemden Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 3 8 11
4	-21123	SEMINY THE DIP (80) (D) (L Knight & Claiborne Farm) J Gosdan 3 8 ft W Ryan 7 128
5	1-2231	LOUP SAUVAGE (26) (D) (Daniel Wildenstein) A Fabre (Fr) 3 8 11
В	22610	REVOQUE (21) (BF) (R E Sangster) P Chapple Hyam 3 8 11 Anid 6 123
7	1-211	STOWAWAY (60) (Godolphin) Seed bin Surcor 3 8 11L Dettort 3 114

BETTRIG: 5-4 Plicudski, 4-1 Loop Servage, 9-2 Barmy The Dip, 8-1 Bahkere, 10-1 Revoque, Stowawey, 20-1 Bijou D'Inde 1996: Bosre Sham 3 8 8 Pat Eddery 9-4 (H Cecil) drawn (4) 6 ran

FORM CUIDE

The gap between races is shorter this time but at least PILSUDSKI doesn't have to make the trip over the Altartic after his Arc run. That was the case last year when Pisudski went from an Arc second to Helissio to a win from stablemate Singspiel in the Breeder's Cup in Yoronto 20 days later. The rest period is now just 10 days since Pisudski's galant second to Pentre Celebra, but he has proved so often that has one of the hardest performers in the game. Pisudski is a worthy isvourite to beat the younger brigade. Bearing The Dip is back over his Dante-winning trip, and it was his toughness, more than his staying ability, which saw him hold off Silver Patriarch in the Derby. But Pisudski did overhaus him for a length-and-e-quarter success in the Eclipse, and the Juddmonte International form-line through Desert King (threshed by Pisudski in the Irish Champion Stakes) suggests that Bearing The Dip will again get a rear view of the Stoute battler. This ground may bring about a batter performance from Revoque, who returns to the same strip of turn or which he firshed second to Enterprenary in the Guineas. He certainly wasn't the Revoque of old against Air Express at Ascot last time and a small saver is advised on him to reverse those placings with Bathlane, who would prefer faster ground, and Biljou d'Inde. Loup Seuvage is the numer here with some improvement to come. Twice runner-up to Dayrem over a mile, and third to Desert King in the hist Derby, he found he lided trip (the Sauvage is sure to go well. Stowaway, a late withdrawe from the St Leger, looked a stay-er when he botted up from Bonepertiste. With out in the ground to suit, Loup Seuvage is sure to go well. Stowaway, a late withdrawe from the St Leger, looked a stay-er when he best Silver Patriarch in the Great Voltigeur. FORM GUIDE

श्रा च	hen he	beat Silver Patriarch in the Great Voltigeur.	Selection; PESUDAR
4	.45	OWEN BROWN ROCKFEL STAKES ((CLASS A) £25,000 added 2YO 71 £11	Group 3) C4
1	211	NAME OF LOVE (14) (CD) (William Fox) D Loder 8 12	
2	ACINE	REF 1 F DE MILET (16) (TO division) Without) 8 Meethen 8.9	
3	13	9 SHANNIS 571 (D) (BP) @lemden Al Maktourti A Steret	189 K Mare & W
ă	441	P SURIER (USA) (200 (C) (Contribito) Second bin Surror 8	סע ויחמבסטו
5	2104	EXPECT TO SHAVE (20) Nakidoum Al Makidoum) B Hills 8 9	
ě	1	FAMBLA (21) (C) IV Schimnel J Dunion 89	
7	122	FLAWLESS (140 AD) ADD (Chaveley Park Shall) Sir M Press	## 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
8	DH.	OH IN CLO CO Sen Lorenbeach M Terroriers 8.9	
9	5253	STATUA (AS) (RF) (States Rovins Ith 9 Maids 8.9	Fortune 4 50
10	32120	TADWIGA (29) (Stonethern Stud Farms Limited) R Hennot	89 MERC & 700
11	34	VHRTUOUS (14) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Stoute 8 9	MARKET PROPERTY IN A PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY
12	61	WENDA (21) (8 H Vosts) C British 6 8	O Pasiler 10 95
		_ 10 plantaged _	

5		NGK SPARK PLUGS HANDICAP (CLASS C) £1 7f Penalty Value £7,980	
1	-000010	MASTER BOOTS (70) (D) (Chris Steetner) () Loder 4 9 12	K Fallo n 6
2	025102	MIDYAN CALL (15) (Lucano Gaucci) M Bell 3 9 10	.G Fauthmer (5) 24
3	2(022)	PERSIAN FAYRE (26) (CO) (Murray Grubb) J Barry 599	··· C Forether (2)
4	100-5	GENERAL SONG (99) (D) (General Horse Advertising) K McAutifie 3 9	19 (1900 أمـــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ
5	0000002	MADLY SHARP (15) (CD) (Lord Sweything) J W Watts 69 8	Fortune 25
6	030-53	PRIMO LARA (14) (D) (Theret Leasing Limited) P Harris 596	22 1944 لم ــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــــ
7	8125	SHELTERING SKY (28) (D) (SF) (V Betrens) J Duntop 3 9 5	
8	126200	RETURN OF AMIN (21) (D) (Shekh Arrin Dahlawi) J Bethell 3 95	
9	30235	ARFUHAN (17) (D) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) P Walvyn 395	.,
10	/5000-	HIGH PRIORITY (402) (Mrs Elean Sheshan) M Haynes 4 9 5	D Blegs ?
17	24-105	JAWHARI (56) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Durlop 3 9 5	G Carter 26
12	360000	MUSICK HOUSE (7) (D) (The Money Men) Gay Kelleway 4 9 4	. A Whelen (3) 35
13	040000	TOP BANANA (20) (C) (Henry Candy) H Candy 693	B Smith (7) 10
14	0500	COSSACK COUNT (14) (\$ Dow) \$ Dow 492	_Martin Duyer 20
15	0.4212	DESERT BEAUTY (ZZ) (Lord Weinstock) M Stoute 3 9 2	
16	640004	NOMORE MR NICEGUY (27) (D) (Mrs Card P McPhall) E Alaton 39 (2L Charmock 17
17	650600	FLETCHER (30) (C) (Lady Margadele) H Morrison 3 9 2	
18	334200	TILER (20) (2) (BF) (Mrs C Pobinson) M Johnston 5 9 1	
19	0-2631	NR MAJICA (32) (C J Melcelle) B Meshan 3 9 1	G Hennon (7) 4
20	432020	WEETMAN'S WEIGH (14) (D) (Ed Weetman) R Hollmsheed 4 9 0	_D Griffitha (3) 2
21	2302	AT LARGE (14) (S Harson) J Farshave 8 9 0	O Pauller (
22	111130	SAFIO (21) (D) (Mrs M A Clayton) A Bailey 490	D Wright 18
23	666240	STOPPES BROW (115) (0) (C.) Perrick) G.L. Moore 5.8 13	A CREAK 23 \
24	3139-0	SALTY JACK (25) (Sales Of The Earth 4 Seasons Recing) V Scene 3 (3 13 R Perham 1
25	0-6000	MULLITOVER (14) (CD) (Mrs D 8 Muley) M Heaton-Elis 7 8 1	R Cochrana 12
26	1330-0	LOUGH ERME (44) (Sir Stanley and Lady Grinsteed) C Wall 5 & 11	S Sanders 14
27	800040	PLEADING (20) (Simon Broke) H Cardy 4 B 10	N Adems 11
28	203233	STYLE DANCER (21) (Mrs C A Hodgetts) R Whitsler 38 10	N Day 9 \
29	4950	BACCHUS (27) (M. Hankes) A Siewart 3 8 10	W Plyan !
30	-00600	ANGEL CHRICES (14) (CD) (G W Prichard-Gordon) J Banks 489	.R Medien (5) 16 \

— 30 0002190 —
— 30 0002190 —
BETTING: 8-1 Mardly Sharp, Dealert Beauty, 10-1 Midyan Call, Sheltaring Shy, At Large, 12-1 Pringo Lara, Arruban, Salio, 14-1 others

- 20 declared -Minimum weight: 7st 10to. True handicap weight: Speriah Verdict 7st 9to. SETTIMG: 6-1 Desert Track, 7-1 Someton Boy, 8-1 Impulsive Air, 10-1 Fertham, Jedi Knight, 12-1 others

4.50 TYNE & WEAR MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) \$4,025

added 2YO 1m

rgo Lasa, Arruban, Sallo, 14-1 others 1996: Mezzanotte 3 8 7 L Dettori 11-1 (L Cumani) drawn (20) 22 ran

REDCAR HYPERION

Law Commission
1996: Chamspord Forest 4.9.4 L Detton 19-6 fax (Saced bin Suroot) drawn (5) 8 ran
FORM GUIDE
REBECCA SHARP can sit on Einadim's tai and do the colt for a turn of loot. Einadim
has booked a crack-erjack over sor kindings, but he is now on a slower surface over a longer
inp with a 4-b penalty. With this in mind he could be worth opposing. Rebecca Sharp
would have beaten Air Euroress in the Cusen Elizabeth II Statese at Ascot (fin) had sha
not been bowed in early in the straight. Decorated Hero must dety a penalty and is without Frankie Detion, who is on Kahal. The latter would be a mighty threat if back to the

form of his Jersey Stakes second to Among Men. Michael Stautis has decided on a change of noter for Dazzie, four lengths behind Einstein at Ascot and now with Kieren Failon taking over from John Reid, who notes the Gumeas seventh, Elegant Warning. Deadly Dudley in front of Almushtarak at the Curragh last time) is fresher than most and could take a real hand on his juvenile ability.

2.15 Break The Rules 2.45 Final Tango 3.15 Shudder 3.45 Swino 4.15 Nor-Do-I 4.50 Eco Friendly 5.25 Polenista GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places). STALLS: Streight - stands side: Im 6f - centre; rest - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 6f to 1m.

NKERED FIRST TIME: Miracle Kid (visored) (2:5), Midyan Biu visored) (5.25).

	2.	15	LESLIE PETCH MEMORIAL HANDICAL (CLASS D) 25,000 added 1m 2f
		014213	INFATUATION (23) (D) (BF) Lady Herres 4 10 0 K Darley 3
1	2	01-100	MIRACLE KID (14) (D) J Gorden 3 9 to, A McGlone 2 V
١:	3	-10610	GANGA (21) (D) W Jarvs 399
4	1	41-5	WELLAKİ (USA) (10) J Gosden 3 9 8 D O'Tjonohoe 13
1	5		SELBERRY (212) P Hastern 3 9 8 Date Gibeon 1
	6	3-6530	THE IN-LAWS (23) Sr M Prescott 3 9 7 G Duffield 9
1	7	-21360	RAIVUE (12) (D) E Weymes 3 9 6 Dean McKeown 8
ı	8	050025	MASTER BEVELED (2) (BF) P Evens 7 9 5 A Cultane 14
1	9	-50006	TIME FOR ACTION (18) M Tompkins 5 94 W J O'Conner 10
ľ	10	122001	MCGLLYCUDDY REBKS (10) (D) E incsa 694 JGm Tinkler 6
١	17	000206	BREAK THE RULES (2) (C) (D) D Notobs 5 93_Alex Greaves 5
	C.	-526K	TANGSHAN (CAN) (89) (8F) M Stoute 391 F Lynch 12
1	3	2200#	PEXAY (5) M Johnston 4 9 7 (Sex)
ľ	14	344	LIMPS (ÚŠA) (22) Mrs J Cecil 3 9 0 J Carroll 7

2.45 EBF MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,550 added 2YO filles 75 ANITA MARIÉ M Johnston 6 71...... ...D Holland 4

_		_
22	FINAL TANGO (11) (BF) J Gosden 8 11	_
032	GUNZELLS (USA) (17) (BP) H Candy 8 11 Rutter 9	
	JAYESS ELLE (11) J RizGerald 8 11 W J O'Connor 12	
	JILTED (14) R Hannon 8 11 Dane O'Nell 7	
	MONDSCHEIN (16) J Dunlop 8 11 K Darley 2	
00	ON CALL (14) Sir M Prescott 8 11	
	RANNA A Stewart 8 11	
0	TABASCO (21) M Charmon B 11 Carroli 8	
	TILLER GIRL M Carrecto 8 ff T Lucas 1	
0	ZOBAIOA (16) M Jarvis 6 11 Peul Eddery 5	
	- 12 declared -	

BETTING: 5-2 Final Tango, 7-2 Rasma, 5-1 Mondachein, 6-1 Sited, 8-1 Gunzella, Zobaida, 10-1 Anita Maria, 12-1 Fieraboyent Belle, 20-1 others

	-,	,
3	.15	COMCAST TEESSIDE TWO-YEAR-OLD TROPHY (CLASS B) £100,000 2YO 6f
1	01140	BAY PRINCE (34) M Channon 8 13 A Mackey 20
2		CHIPS (7) (D) D Esworth 8 13 P P Murphy 5
3	-7-61	YOUNG JOSH (23) (D) J Gosden 8 12
4	15040	
5		LORD LIEUTENANT (31) M Bel 6 to A Cultane 22
ĕ		Malana (28) (D) J Gosdan 8 10
7		POOL MUSIC (25) R Harmon 8 10
É		HOPPING HIGGENS (14) (SIT) A P OShen (4) 88 D Holland 9
9	4234	
10	2	HO LENG (29) (D) Miss L Perratt 8 7,
ñ	122141	JACMAR (19) (D) Miss L Perratt 67 Mi Rimmer 14
12	33403	
13	32223	RECUESTOR (30) (8P) J Fiz Gerald 8 7, W J O'Connor 13
14	34	SHALFORD'S HONOUR (10) W Javes 8 7 16 Tebbut 23
5	322	CEASE FIRE (49) (BF) Mrs J Ceci 8 5 J Carroll 11
16		OCCHI VERDI (18) M Johnston 85 Dean McKeown 12
17	120400	
19	4231	CALL TO ORDER (22) C Wall 8 4
_		MANTLES STAR (59) (8F) G Lows 8 4 Paul Eddory 18
19		ONE SINGER (12) (C) M Johnston 6 4 J Take 6
20 21		ROI DE DANSE (36) (D) J Hills 8 4 M Henry 10
41	UQU	We re made for the auto on busing in

8ETTING: 7-1 Pool Music, 8-1 Mijana, Hopping Chipe, Lord Lieutenard, Shudder, 12-1 others FORM GUIDE

SHUDDER, besten a nose by the German-Irained Starley in a Group Three contest at Chantily 33 days ago, must have a leading chance hera. Starley, unbesten in four outings, is clearly pretty useful. Shudder had made a wriving debut at Goodwood in August, being eased

3.45 (CLASS E) £4,025 added 5f

- 13 ORGENIUS - - 15 ORGENIUS - - 15 ORGENIUS - - 15 ORGENIUS - 15 ORGEN

4.15 STANLEY RACING HANDICAP (CLASS D) \$5,000 added 1m

10 D NORSKI (LAD (13) Sr M Prescrit 9 0 ______ G Duffield 6
11 300554 O'HGGINS (19) R Boss 9 0 ______ M Teoblad 5
12 6 STRATEGIC AIR (17) E Weymes 9 0 _____ A McGlone 13
13 4343 CAMPARI (23) M Larvs 8 9 _____ Deen McKecoun 8
14 500 GABLIC COUNTEC (18) Goldroyd 69 ____ K Hodgeon 7
15 DD ST CLAIR SHORIES (USA) (10) M Stoue 8 9 ___ F Lynch 14
15 Gestand -15 Gestand -BETTING: 5-2 Eco Prisodly, 5-1 Remaining, 6-1 Campani, 7-1 Booble Edged,
Norski Lad, 10-1 Little Brave, 12-1 St Clair Shores, 14-1 Others 5.25 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 6f 19yds ...P McCabe (3) 14 B

KELSO HYPERION

2.00 Thunderheart 2.40 Mister Ross 3.10 Lay The Blame 3.50 Tighter Budget 4.20 Lagan 4.50 D'Arblay Street GOING: Chases - Good to Firm; Hurdles - Good (Good to Firm

n places.

(a) Undurating course Run-in of two furlangs.

(b) Course is north of town off B8461 ADMISSION: Club 210-12, Tattersalls 17 (Students & OAPs 19), CAR PARK: Free (b) LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 32 winners from 110 run-ines (291-%), M Hammond 21-92 (228%), G Richards 17-84 (202%), J H Johnson 15-77 (195%).

(c) LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 40-127 (31.5%), A Dobbin 28-138 (187-%), B Storay 22-150 (147-%), L. Wyer 12-61 (19.7%).

(d) FAVOURITES: 145-361 (40.2%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None

2.00 BROUGHTON AMATEUR NOVICE HUR-DLE (CLASS G) £2,500 2m 6f 110yds 004-1 TIGEY (7) G Richards 4 Ti 13 Mr M Braddhurne (7)
15-12 WAYUPHILL (8) (BF) C Parler 10 Ti 9 Mr M Braddhurne (7)
0059- CALLING THE TUNKE (157) Ms L Plager 8 T 7. Mr C Skorby (5)
3P729- OLLIES BOY (168) J Barcky 6 Ti 7 Mr R Haile (5)
45-54- RURSSLAW (8) Mrs K Lamb 5 Ti 7 Mr S Swifers
66434- TELLAPORKY (142) R Simpson 8 Ti 7 ... Mr S Swifers
66434- TELLAPORKY (142) R Simpson 8 Ti 7 ... Mr A Middleton (7)
2 THUNDER-EART (15) (EF) R Alan 6 Ti 7 Mr A Robson (7)
P44633 MEADOWLECK (8) W Young 8 Ti 2 ... Mr T Comerford (7)

SETTING: 5-4 Toby. 2-1 Wayuphili. 4-1 Trunderheart, 15-1 Tellaporky. Meadomieck, 20-1 Rubislaw. Smile Please, 25-1 others

2.40 EXTRORDINAIR MARGARET FLEMING NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) 54,100 3m 1f 64-2U3 WALLS COURT (7) J Bivett 10 11 13 _____ M Molonsy B FY2-44 ASTRALEON (7) (C) H Alan 9 10 13 _____ S Melrose (7) 635P2 COMMO ALIVE (872) N Meson 10 10 13 _____ K Jehnson 10 19 K H G GIRSEACH (675) J Turner 8 10 13 ____ R Supple 10-9-5 LOTHAN COMMODORE (194) G Richards 7 10 13 A Dobbin 5-10-F MOSTER ROSS (7) (C) (6F) J H Johnson 7 10 13 P Certheny P-6P62 WAR WHOOP (13) Miss L Russel 5 10 10 ____ M Foster - 7 declared -SETTING: 4-5 Matter Ross, 5-1 Walls Court, 8-1 Astroleon, Lothian Com-

re, 12-1 Coming Alive, War Whoop, 16-1 King Giraeach

3.10 KEYLINE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) 23,000 2m 110yds

- 14 declared -BETTING: 8-11 Superpride, 8-1 Chinock's Daughter, Lumback Lady, 10-1 Sycamore Ladge, 12-1 Lay The Blame, 14-1 Amber Holly, 16-1 others 3.50 JOHN HOGG HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m 1f

5 2234 SEE(ONG GOLD (232) CD) J Barciay 8 10 5..... B Storey - 5 declared - BETTING: 7-4 Locknegrain, 9-4 Royal Vacation, 9-2 Tighter Budget, 5-1 Off The Bru, 10-1 Seeking Gold

EDINBURGH CITY FOOTBALL CLUB 4.20 HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) \$3,650 2m 110yds

Minimum weight: 10st. True transfer weight Hobbs Choice Set 11th.
BETTING: 3-1 Superiop, 7-2 Sousse, 5-1 Russian Rescal, Hobbs Choice, 6-1 Lugan, 7-1 Adametic, 12-1 Triemhum 4.50 P A DEVELOPMENTS H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 2m 6f 110yds

– 11 declared – BETTING: 5-2 Charity Crusader, 5-1 Highland Way, 7-1 Jubran, Stane River, 8-1 Mile Mij, Bridle Path, 12-1 Cash Box, Pharmistics, 14-1 others

KEMPTON

HYPERION 2.20 Celibate 2.50 Real Estate 3.20 Samartino 3.50 Jultara 4.20 Cheryl's Lad 4.55 Sharp Command

GOING: Good.

Right-hand course. Practically flat. Run-in of 200yd. Course is on A308 at Sunbury. (Boxing Day only: Bus link from Pictmond Underground station.) Kempton Park railway station ad-joins course. ADMISSION: Out and Tattersals combined enclosure joins course ADMISSION: Culp and Tattersals combined enclosure £3. Sever Ring ES. CAR PARIK: free. ■ LEADING TRAINERS: D Nicholson 18-65 (27.7%), K Balley 11-50 (22%), N Henderson 10-88 (14.7%), R Almer 9-31 (29%). ■ LEADING JOCKEYS: J Osborne 27-99 (27.3%), A Magquire 23-89 (25.6%), M A Fitzgerald 17-96 (17.7%), R Dumwoody 13-81 (16%). ■ FAVOURITES: 108-270 (40%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Zafarelli (visored) (250).

2.20 FERRY BOAT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £6,500 added 2m

Managum weight, 10st. True handcap weight: Red Been 9st.
BETTING: 11-9 Cellistic. 7-2 Super Tectics, Americio, 9-2 Thumbs Up,
14-1 Jazzy Refmin, 50-1 Red Bean

GERALD MANNING 70TH BIRTHDAY 2.50 GERALD MANNING (VI) Added 3YO 2m

3.20 SPORTING INDEX HURDLE (CLASS B) 27,000 added 2m 31320 - OH SO RISKY (198) (D) D Eisworth 10 11 8 . . . P Holley 1161 - SAMMARTINO (187) (CD) D Nichoson 5 11 8 . . . A Maguire 3-2124 GLOBAL DANCER (12) (D) (BF) L Wels 6 11 0 .M Richards 81200 - KERAWI (177) (D) N Twiston-Davies 4 10 13 . . C Llowellyn

- 4 declared -BETTING: 4-7 Sammerties, 11-4 Oh So Risky, 5-1 Xerawi, 33-1 Globel Dancter

3.50 CHARISMA GOLD CUP (HANDICAP CHASE) (CLASS B) £15,000 added 3m 61116- SENOR EL BETRUTTI (198) (D) (BF) Mrs S Nock 8 11 13 .. 3/IFP CHERRYNUT (221) (D) P Nichole 8 11 4 T.J Murph 13 PO GOLDEN SPENIER (198) (BF) N Handerson 10 11 4 M A Fitzgerai 1010F- BELL STAFFBOY (200) (0) J OSTea 8 11 3 Michael B 105-1 FATHER SKY (14) (ID) O Sherwood 6 10 13 J A McCarthy B 2025-1 CAROLES CRUSADER (35) (D) O Gardofo 6 10 2. A Maguire 20P10- CHURCH LAW (201) (D) Mrs L Taylor 10 10 0 .R Thornton (3) 3F-341 VICOSA (13) (D) R Ainer 8 T/O A Thornson - 10 declared m waght: 10st. True handicap weights: Church Law 9st 10th, Vicos

BETTING: 3-1 Father Sky, 4-1 Carole's Crusader, 5-1 Julians, 7-1 Golden Spinner, Vicosa, 8-1 Senor El Betrutil, 12-1 Cherrynut, Bell Staffboy 4.20 WEATHERBYS/HISCOX HOUSEHOLD INSURANCE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS

D) £5,000 added 2m

4003-1 CHERYL'S LAD (21) (D) D Nicholson 7 ft 6. A Mag 4003-1 CREMITES LAD (21) (U) D NOCIOSOTI / II D. A PAGEORY PPS-12 BABA AU RIKAM (23) (D) I Williams 5 11 5..... A P McCoy 98200 CMEP'S SONG (P23) (CD) 9 Dow 7 11 0 R Durwoody 1/013- HOH WARRIOR (266) (D) C Brokes 6 11 0 G Bradley 18256- LAKE KARRIA (224) (D) P Nociosis 6 11 0 T J Murphy 123FP/ TENNESSEE KING (588) (D) A Foster 7 ft C A Thornton

BETTING: 7-4 Cheryl's Lad, 2-1 Hoh Warrior, 5-1 Chief's Song, 8-1 Babe At Rhum, Lake Keriba, 20-1 Texmessee King

4.55 PARK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) 25,000 added 2m 5f

33135- GREENBACK (F147) (CD) P Hobbs 6 12 0 C Liene 5P. LEAR JET (USA) (F38) Bob Jones 4 11 3...... R Duminoods 21211- MOTOQUA (201) (D) D Nicholson 5 10 9 A Maguing 12-211 KING OF SPARTA (11) O Sherwood 4 10 9..... A McCarthy 1479-1 SHARP COMMAND (18) (D) P Eccles 4 10 7..... A P McCay 4426 FLYING FIDDLER (206) M J Roberts 6 10 0 _P Henley (3) 9 /131P- TUKANO (CAN) (400) J Jenkins 6 10 0 D Vellow

- 9 declared -Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Tukano 9st 9th. BETTING: 5-2 Motoqua, 7-2 King Of Sparia, 4-1 Sharp Command, 7-Balanak, 8-1 Greenbeck, 10-1 Flying Fiddler, 12-1 Lear Jel, 16-1 other

PUNTERS' GUIDE NEWMARKET 2.15: Although his ability to cope HYPEDION 1'6

2.15: Although his ability to cope

with this dead ground and to last this trip must be taken on trust, EL. NADIM was such a convincing winner of the Diadem Stakes over Ascot's stiff of last time that he cannot be opposed. This is only the eighth race of his career and improvement can be expected. Decorated Hero and Rebecca Sharp carry penalties and have a tough task, particularly the latter who saves her best for Ascot's round mile, Kahal, who has won on this sort of ground, may be more of a

danger here.

2.55: Only two three-year-olds have won this marathon in the past 10 years but that is a fair strike-rate. MOTET looks much the best of their generation this time. The colt was staying on strongly when wining over 2m 2f a month ago. Valagalore has far less obvious claims but represents a stable in peak form and could reach the frame at big odds. Among the older horses, Mawared has solid credentials while a return to form by the outsider Transom would not come as a complete surprise.

3.30: The biggest achievers that Britain and France can offer among the two-year-old ranks, Daggers Drawn and Xaar, take each other on and the deep impression they have already made is reflected in their odds. The unbeaten generous price, has won over course and distance, and was thought worthy of an £18,000 supplementary-entry fee for this race. Daggers Drawn was slightly less im-pressive in beating Docksider at Doncaster than Central Park had been at Goodwood previously, but the latter may already need a mile to show his best.

TV TIPS

Secretary and and a

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4.10: It would be wrong to write off the chances of Derby winner Benny The Dip, but he could well be short of pace against these rivals over today's 10 furlongs. André: Fabre, who has already captured the Champion Stakes with Tel Quel and Dernier Empereur, says this has been the chief target for. Loup Sauvage for some time. This. colt was second to Desert King in the Irish Derby on unsuitably fast ground and he will appreciate this easier going. But the vote must go to PILSUDSKI. The five-year-old was second in the Arc two weeks ago but is certainly effective at this distance. In September he was eased in the closing stages when beating Desert King impressively at Leopardstown.

4.45: Kieren Falion drove out Name Of Love to achieve a clearcut victory on this track two weeks ago, with Flawless two lengths back in second. The latter reopposes on 3lb better terms today. Previously. Flawless had again been runner-up, at Doncaster, with VIRITUOUS four lengths away in fourth. That was this filly's debut, however, and she has since shown enough when winning well TAMARISK, however, is at a more at Nottingham last time to indicate she will gain revenge today.

REDCAR

3.15: SHUDDER, a highly creditable nose runner-up to Starkey in the Group Three Prix d'Arenberg over 5f 1 10yds at Chantilly in September, is bred to stay further (his dam won a 21/2-mile chase) and should go well in this company.

CESAREW	TCI	1 H	AND	ICA	P - 1	Ų-YI	AK-	INC		
	1987	88	89	90_	91	92	_93_	94	<u>95</u>	96
Fate of the favourities:		1-11	3	2	16_	1_	4	_14	3	3-12
Winner's place in bettin	a: 0	1jt	3	2	_ 0 _	1_	200	_ 0_	0	_0
Starting-prices:	50-1	6-1	15-2	13-2	33-1	5-1	12-1	25-1	11-1	20-1
Winning weights:	7-9	79	9-10	7:12	7:11	26	8.12	99	731	7.3
Winner's age:	5	3	5	3	7	5	7	4	5	7
Winner's draw.	7	3	1	16	14	10	21_	28	16	15
Profit or loss to £1 stak	e: Fav	ourite	943 -£00	.50 Se	eond	Favo	urites	+£0.7	75	
Percentage of winners	alaced	1st.	2nd o	र अत्ते	in las	Lrace	: 60%			
Shortest-priced winners								jt tav.	-	co-ta
Longest-priced winner:										
Top trainers: No trainer	aas wo	n this	1208	more	than c	INCO II	the g	oast 10) year	3

FIRST SHOW

Antartic Storm (Newmarket 1.40) is 40-1 with Ladbrokes, the Tote go 18-1. Barnburgh Boy is 20-1 with Coral, William Hill go 12-1, Impressionist (Newmarket, 3.30) is 25-1 with Ladbrokes

Newmarket— 1.40										
Horae	C	Н	Ļ	Ţ						
Gull Street	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-						
Hunters Of Brons	10-1	11-1	12-1	12-1						
Sweat Witholmine	12-1	11-1	12-1	14-1						
Cashmers Lady	16-1	15-1	11-1	14-1						
Epic Stand	16-1	14-1	14-1	14-1						
La Modiste	14-1	16-1	12-1	14-1						
Barniburgh Boy	20-1	24	15-1	16-1						
Outsid	14-1	12-1	14-1	20						
Mo-Addab	20-1	16-1	18-1	16-1						
Prince Of Denial	15-1	18-1	14-1	20						
Saltan	15-1	15-1	15-1	20-						
For Your Eyes Only	20-1	20-1	22-1	16-						
Therites	16-1	20-1	22-1	20.						
Fernally Man	25-1	25-1	22-1	25						
High Spirits	25-1	22-1	20-1	3						
Shinerolla	25-1	20-1	18-1	20-						
Ben Gunn	25-1	28-1	28-1	18						
Queens Consul	25-1	28-1	25-1	25-						
Apache Star	20-1	28-1	28-1							
Boucide		25-1		20.						
Kalla Sunnisa		33-1	25-1	35						
Present Situation	25-1	28-1	33-1	33-						
Sharp Shudde	33-1		33 -1	33-						
Anonym	33-1	40 -1	40-1	40.						
Antertic Storm	25-1	25-1	40-1	18-						
Artiul Dane	25-1	33-1	40-1	25.						
Mr Peracise	33-1		25-1	33-						
Pride Of Pendie		40-1		40-						
Sunz Tomado				40-						
Band On The Run										

Newmarket— 2.15										
House C H T										
<u> Engelige</u>	58	15-8	6-4							
Rébecca Sharp	3-1	3-1	7-2							
Decorated Hero	4-1	92	9-2							
Kathgi	8-1	7.1	B-1							
Dazzle	8-1	8-1	9-1							
Deadley Dudley	14-1	14-1	18-1							
Afraushtesak	25-1	20-1	25-1							
Danggrous Dieg	20-1	25-1	25-1							
Begant Warning	33 -1	33-1	25-1							
Muchea	33-1	25-1	25-1							
Swift Godiner	33-1	33-1	25-1							
Law Consultation	100-1	100-1	100-1							
Each way a fil	h the odd	, piaces 1,								
C-Coral I	-Willem	HILT-Tag	1							

C - Coral H - William Hill L - Lectroles, T - Total

Media Ster	8-1	8-1	8-1	8-1
Mert	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1
Managed	10-1	10-1	11-1	11-1
Captain Jack	14-1	16-1	14-1	14-1
Go Britannia	20-1	16-1	18-1	8-1
Motes	9-1	9-1	8-1	10-1
inchealloch	20-1	15-1	18-1	20-1
Sweetness Harse	3 20-1	201	22-1	16 <u>-1</u>
Tolera Dancer	25-1	<u> 30-1</u>	18-1	18-1
Turnpole	25-1	18 -1	20-1	25 <u>-1</u>
Onefourseven	20-1	20-1	28-1	25-1
Cloud Inspector	33-1	33-1	28-1	33-1
Sea Victor	Z -1	28 1	25-1	33-1
Tomray Tortoba	33-1	<u>33-1</u>	25-1	33 <u>-1</u>
Hensom	33-1	<u>25</u> 1	22-1	33-1
Velegelore	33-1	33 -1	25-1	25-1
Shirley State	40-1	40-1	40-1	40-1
Siege Perlique	40-1	<u>35-1</u>	40-1	40 -1
Etarby Park	50-1	50-1	50-1	25-1
Great Easeby			33-1	<u> 69-1</u>
Here Comes Harb		40-1	40-1	50-1
Nigers Lad	50-1	50-1	50-1	50 -1
Stationer	50-1	40-1	40-1	40-1
Star Rage	40-1		50-1	40-1
wor's Rutter			66-1	_
The Plylog Phanton				_
Azlac Flyer				图1
Grand Cru		100-1		100-1
Salaka			150-1	
Russian Rose				
Each way, a qua				
C-Coral H-WE	am HELI	Ladb	rokes, T	TOE
Newn			2 20	

Newmarket-- 2.55

Top Cress 11-2 13-2 6-1 6-1

Canon Can 8-1 8-1 8-1 7-1

C H L

Newn	nark	et-—	3.30	
Horse	C	H	L	ͺ, τ
Daggers Drawn	2-1	7-4	7-4	74
<u> Xaar</u>	7-4	15-8	15-8	2-1
Control Park	4-1	92	7-2	54
Tamerisk	5-1	11-2	7-1	5-1
Desart Prince	16-1	12-1	12-1	21
la pressionist	20-1	18-1	25-1	14-1
Pegraiz	50-1	88-1	66-1	504
Each way, a q	uelle h	e codes.	alaces 7	.2-
C-Coral, H-Will				

O.A.E. 11-16E	an-ar F	- LEGGS	OKER I -						
Newmarket 4.10									
Horse	C	н	L	<u>· 1</u>					
Plantski	TI-10	11-10	Euro	54					
Barray The Dig	9-2	4-1	9-2	.41					
Loup Sauvage	92	92	41	41					
Stowaway	8-1	15-2	.81	. 71					
Batthere	8-1	8-1	10 1	- 10-1					
Révoque	10-1	14-1	121	10-1					
Bijou D'Inde	25-1	25-1	33-1	251					
Each way a d	Each way, a quarter fre costs, places 1.2								
C-Coral H-WE	am Hill L	C-Coral H - William Hit L - Larbridge T - Total							

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IONICCITALLE	67 T	:
LONGCHAMP -	SUNDAY	
THE PERSON NAMED OF THE PE	DOIVE	
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	**************			A DY CI	 ومقداد
	3.20	PRIX DE LA FORET ty Value £56,116	(GROUP 1) S	95,398 added	Pena
	U G-UGPA	DUDGIAN HEYTVAL (775 (D) REI A	Andrew on Al States		
-					
	3 141212	TOMBA (44) (JR Good) B Meets KEOS (JISA) (20) (CT) AS	FRANK CITY IN TOTAL SEC	n (GB) 492) Holland
	4 3.121D	KEOS GISA) 200 ACTA AL	u (===) 380		السلطين إ
i		Lesing City (CTI) (MM)	DESTRUCT HENDRALDS, LANG.		
	190 - M455	CLASSIC PARK (42) (C) (140 C	Admin A D Office on	A . 400 4 0 C TO	. سيخان ا

PAR (42) (D) (Mrs S Burhs) A P O'Brien (Irl) 3 8 to . - 10 declared -- 10 decereu -BETTING: 7-2 Occupandiste, 5-1 Puzalea Revival, Depetaya, 6-1 Yomba, 7 Classic Park, 10-1 Keos, Don't Worry Me, 12-1 others 1986: A Magaman 4 9 2 A Subonos 22-1 (H Steguwari, Ger) drawn (11) 11 ran

Many punters are still in the running for a valuable Autumn Double, while two Group One events bring horses of the highest quality to the Rowley Mile. Greg Wood studies the runners for the first Champions Day at Newmarket.

The promotional challenges go, there can be few more daunting tasks than to persuade any sane person that the miserable expanse of Newmarket Heath in mid-October is somewhere they might care to be. Backslaps all round, then, for the executives in charge of organising the first "Champions Day" card on the Rowley Mile, one of only two afternoons on the British turf - along with Durby day when spectators can enjoy two Group One events. Add in the Cesarewitch, always one of the season's most popular handicaps, and suddenly even frostbite would seem a fair price to pay for a place in the stands.

For many punters, in fact, the Cesarewitch will be the day's most significant race, and all the more so thanks to the success of Pasternak in the Cambridgeshire, the first leg of the Autumn Double, two weeks ago. Not only was Pasternak backed down to 4-1 in one of the gambles of the season, but he also figures in plenty of doubles linked to leading contenders in today's second instalment.

Bookmakers sitting on seri-

they have a fair chance of odds. Top Cees was ideally suitkeeping the lot, however, since ed by the very soft ground at in the last 10 years alone, the Cesarewitch has been won at odds of 50-1, 33-1, 25-1 and 20-1, and only Vintage Crop, who took a small fortune out of the ring in 1992, has inflicted

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: At Large (Newmarket 5.20) NB: Suez Tornado (Newmarket 1.40)

serious pain. They will take no chances, though, with Top Cees, twice the Chester Cup winner, whose connections are not averse to a bet, while Henry Cecil's Canon Can, the Doneaster Cup winner, will also figure in most calculations.

Yet neither makes enorous liabilities will still reckon mous appeal at relatively short

pion Stakes appears to point to just one possible outcome. Chester in May, while Canon Desert King, who has deserted Can could finish only third in this race in favour of the Breedthis race last year from 22h kwers' Cup Turf, has the beating er in the ratings. In any case, of Benny The Dip and Loup there are others in the field who Sauvage on the basis of the Inappear more progressive. Mawternational Stakes and Irish ared, who has not stopped im-Derby respectively, but was in proving since moving up to turn humiliated by Pilsudski in extreme trips, is one, but the Irish Champion Stakes. MOTET (nap 2.55), who is a Michael Stoute's runner, who then finished second to Peintre year younger and has just eight starts to his name, may have Celebre in the Arc, deserves to even more scope. Geoff start favourite, but for even such Wragg's runner was an easy wina notably tough campaigner, 13 ner over this trip and off the same mark at Folkestone last recover from Paris exertions. time, and is developing into a It is not a chance worth takvery useful stayer. An each-way

the race by Mary Reveley, a win-

The bare form of the Cham-

ing, and the price against Loup alternative is Turnpole, who Sauvage (next best 4.10) is better value. Andre Fabre - who seems to have been laid out for is, of course, also the trainer of ner with Old Red two years ago. Peintre Celebre - has won the Champion Stakes twice in the

last six years, and may have found the candidate - talented, lightly-raced and improving - to give him a third in seven.

Fabre also saddles a prime contender for the Dewhurst Stakes in Xaar, whose sire, Zafonic, won the same race in such style five years ago on his way to Classic success in the 2,000 Guineas. Like Zafonic, Xaar won the Group One Prix de la Salamandre at Longchamp last month, which is the best form on offer today, but still may struggle to beat Tamdays may not be long enough to arisk (3.30). Roger Charlton's colt might appear to have much less to offer, but his win in the Houghton Sales Stakes over course and distance three weeks ago was deeply impressive and he can move towards the head of the 2,000 Guineas lists with another victory today.



or third in anything but the

tightest of handicaps.

Changes to the rules have

do not squeak, they negoti-

win, rather than waste mon-

GREG WOOD ing less than a quarter the odds a place whatever the THE A-Z race, but these days you will be paid at one fifth if your choice finishes second

> ever get corrupted. Despite this, strangely, a young person's inaugural visit to a betting shop has never been like their first snog, or that drink a bottle of Thunderbird in less than 10 minutes. But then it does not take long to realise that what looks like a tangible aura of licentiousness hanging over the door is in fact just a thick pall of fag smoke.

Exchequer, the: By rights, to mind a hungry bird tug- all off-course bets amounts the first light of dawn. In fact, This compares to just £50m, minder of the need to search sociation, never stops re-30 seconds of opening time. tax like the rest of us, he

description of a horse which Explanation: Would-be

ev on a place bet - perhaps a runner on the opposite side when you're not sure how the draw will work out. Difficult: don't back anything at all. Early-Bird prices: A relatively recent development. and cunningly named to call ging away at a juicy worm in a phoenix would often be a more appropriate avian image, given the mythical nature of many morning-line odds, Although still a fine refor value, these now seem to be little more than an earlywarning system for bookies who have stepped out of line, as well as a source of fodder for the letters columns of the racing papers as frustrated punters recount how 12-1 became 6-1 within Easy to back: Instructive is drifting in the on-course

support it, you will find the run almost before they disbookies more than happy to accommodate you - at bites, but an explanation is which point any sensible a little different. This is an punter will stop to wonder official statement supplied why a sharp-suited wide- by a trainer at the request of boy with two kids at a minor the stewards when a horse public school and a mock- has performed unaccount-Tudor pile near Basildon ably badly and, thanks to a should suddenly be so keen sudden attack of glasnost to give money away. Eligible: Which you are on can also be published in the

ter the law allows you to dri- was one which, rather ve, and two after it's okay to tellingly, the National Trainprocreate. This is yet an- ers' Federation was none too pressionable minors should or she is doing.

RACING RESULTS

ETHEL Trio: £12300. NR: Rose Of Glenn. 4,55: 1. RARE NDIGO [C Lowther) 16-1; 2. Heppy Days Again 7-2; 3. Tenthory 1-8 fax, 6 ran. 1%, Ind. [J Berry, Cockerham). Tele: £1120; £230, £160. DF: £4580. CSF-NEWMARKET NEWMAHRI: I
1.30: 1, DOVEDON STAR (K Fellon) 6-1;
2. Mithels 9-1; 3. Royal Castile 11-2 fax. 14
ran. 1½. 4. (P Kelloway, Newmarkst). Totac:
25:60; £150; £320; £230. DF; £2840. CSF:
25:50. Tricast: £28980. Tro: £5:50.
2.05: 1, LUCAYAN REDIAN (K Falon) 38-8
tar; 2. Astrologer 9-2; 3. Cloud Castile 6-1.
6 ran. 1 nit. (D Loder, Newmarkst). Tota:
2.230; £170; £190. DF; £450. CSF: £789. NR:
Sottyus. £64,74. 5.25: 1. NIGHT OF GLASS (M Galaghan) 5.25: 1.Novalet OF ca. ASS pu Galagram)
6-1; 2. Halowing 20-1; 3. Styllish Ways 19-1;
4. Kass Alhawa 9-1, 17 ran, 4-1 fav
Rymer's Pascal ¹/₄, 4, (J. L. Eyre, Thirsk), Tota:
58.00: 52.20, 54.70, 54.00, 52.30 DF: 592.80,
CSF: \$25.02. Tricast: \$105.78. Tric: Not won.

Softwis. 2.35: 1. FAHRIS (R Hills) 11-10 fee; 2. Amid Albadu 15-2; 3. Proper Blue 8-1. 7 Tota: ran. 3. 1%. (B Herbury, Newmarkst). Tota: £190; £140, £250 DF: £550 CSF: £793 3.10: 1. MY BEST VALENTINE (R 3-10: 1. MY SEST VALENTINE (R Cockspan) 14-1; 2. Bodin Joenne 100-30; 3. Snow Kid 3-1 fav. 16 ran. Ni, 7a. (V Sours, Aston Roward, Totax 22010; 8430, E190, 2210, DF: 01210, CSF: 658-38. Trio: 555-20. NF: Almasi.

HEREFORD

1.45: 1. BROWNES HILL LAD (A P MoCoy) 4-7 fax; 2. Homme De Fet 8-1; 3. Just
Jasmins 8-1. 10 ran. 1¹4., 3¹/₂. (R O'Sulivan).
Tote: 0150; 2150; 22:0; 12:0 DF: 94an. CSF:
2703. Tifo: 21430.

2.20: 1. STORBI RUN (T J Murphy) 3-1;
2. Mozemo 5-2 fax; 3. Sands Point 33-1
8 ran. 1, 6. (P Nichols). Tota: 94.70; 0130,
0140, 03.70. DF: 2400. CSF: 2717. Tricast:
03.71. The Rossel Island.

2.55: 1. BAAR (V Sartery) 11-1; 2.
Maggle Strait 70-1; 3. Woodleads: Energy 12-1; 12 ran. 13-8 faw Weather Wise. 2,
2¹/₂. (R Baker). Tota: 02.50; 03.10, 02.80,
02.00. DF: 280.50. CSF: 270714. Tric; 220540.
NR: Thomas Grown. 3.45: 1, THE GLOW-WORM (M His) 8-1; 2. Nobit Demand 8-1; 3. Dutch Lad 50-1; 4. Canadian Puzzier 20-1, 28 ran. 4-1 fav Monsejem (Sen), Nr. 1/4. (B His, Lambourn).

\$199700.

4.15: 1. ATUF (L. Detton) 2-1 far; 2. Swing
Along 50-1; 3. Steart 9-2. 20 ram, Hd, nk.
(Sased bin Surcor, Newmarket). Totat:
\$2.30; 21:40, \$11:00, \$1:90. DF; \$98:80. CSF;
\$237:12. Trac: \$97:40. 4.45: 1, DOG WATCH (L Dettori) 1-2 fav;

2. Green Jacket 5-2; 3. Highly Piessed 8-2. 3 ran. 2/h. 10. (J Gosden, Newmarket), Tota: \$\cdot\ 150. OF: \$\cdot\ 150. CSF: \$\cdot\ 2.08. Jackpot: £2408250 - part won. Pool of £30527/4 carried toward to Newmerket today. Placenot: £5430 Quadoot: £1290

CATTERICK

2.10; 1, RAY OF SUNISHINE (J Fortune) 8-1; 2. Prince Ashleigh 11-2 far; 3. Rubam-ma 12-1; 4. Sendmoor Tartan 8-1, 17 ran. 1/4, (Mrs. J Ramsden, Thirsk), Tota: £1300; \$460, £180, £3.40, £3.70. CSF: £4704. Tric-ast: \$322.E. Trio: £1660. After a stewards Inquiry, placings unaltered. 2.45: 1, SWAN HUNTER (R Muler) 10-11

tar; 2. Might City 11-2; 3. Ziggy's Viola 6-1 12 min. 1, 1½. (D Coegrove, Newmarket). Tota: 22:0; £1:0; £2:50; £2:50. DF: £5:90. CSF: 25.50. Trio; £13.90. 3.20: 1, ARJAN (T E Durcer) 16-1; 2.

Odette 7-4 fev; 3. St Lucia 3-1.13 ran. 21/s. 1/s. (J Berry, Cookerham). Tota: £38,00; £550, £10, £10, DP; £30,70, CSP; £447. Trio: £420. NR: Best Of Our Days. 3.55: 1. POLLY GOLIGHTLY (Date Gib-

son) 4-1 fez; 2. Squire Corrie 8-1; 3. Pas-sionatti 9-1; 4. Dominanut Air 11-2: 19 ran. 1½, 2½. (M. Blansherd, Upper Lemboum). Tota: £580; £130, £380, £350, £220. DF: £4930, CSF: £33.61 Tricast: £276.27. Trio: £148.70. NP: Besu Venture. 4.25: 1, PRILLIKI (F Mullen) 12-1; 2. Us-

cle Doug 9-1; 3. Teutan Boy 4-1 co fav. 14 ren. 4-1 co fave Acolina (6th), Rex Murni. 3'/s. '/s. (C Brittein, Newmarket). Tota: 52100; £510, \$2.30, \$180. DF: \$7850. CSF:



OF BETTING

squeezed each-way betting to the point where the pips ate for a formal surrender. These days, if you fancy a a cherished rite of passage, horse to run well without necessarily winning, there ill-conceived attempt to are two alternatives, one easy, the other difficult. Easy: back something else to

> dour old Gordon Brown should be the biggest racing fan in the country, since the Treasury's share of the tax on to some £350m each year. less than one per cent of total annual betting turnover, which returns to the sport via the Levy. As Peter Savill, of the Racehorse Owners Asminding us, prize-money levels in Britain are among the lowest of any major racing country, a situation which might be rectified if the Chancellor did not grab quite so much for himself. Then again, if the multi-millionaire Savill paid British might not have to.

trainers learn to make exmarket. Should you wish to cuses for a disappointing cover which end of a horse on the part of the authorities a couple of years ago, it your 18th birthday, a year af-racing press. This last idea other result of the long-es-pleased about, since bleating tablished official attitude to about a horse needing a difgambling - that it is a tatty ferent trip or going tends to enough business for adults to imply that the handler conengage in, so God - and Par- cerned does not have the liament - forbid that im- first or faintest clue what he

Pincepot: £10800. Quadpot: £8010. Pince 8: £83783. Pince 5: £46109.

HEREFORD

: Thomas Crown. 3,30: 1. SIGMA RUN (Michael Brennen)

8.51. 4.05: 1. PERSIAN VIEW (Mr R Waldey)

6-1; 2. Country Town 33-1; 3. Govern-Shave 6-1 9 ran. 15-8 tay Mr Strong Gala. Det. dist. (K Beiley). Tole: £760; £280, £290, £240. DF: £8060. CSF: £12970. Trio: £7530.

4.35: 1. EASY LISTENING (M A Fizger-aid) 3-1 tay; 2. Explind 9-2: 3. Goldingo 7-1.7 ran. 2, 9. (N Hawke). Tota: £530; £340, £3.40. DF: £760. CSF: £16.59.

Placepot: \$16740. Quadoot: \$30660.

8-1; 2. Rettex Harmoner 6-1; 3. Pair Of Jacks 13-2. 6 ran. 5-6 few Odell. 21, 19. (J O'Shea). Totas: £12.80; £3.70, £2.40. DF: £28.00. CSF:

Ffrench ambassador for the new generation

When he won the Cesarewitch a year ago Aoday Royston Ffrench became the first black jockey to make an impact in British racing. Next he must break through another barrier and succeed as a senior

If you had never met him before, you might think the name Royston Ffrench suitable for a fellow with blazer and cravat charmingly offering advice in a sportscar showroom.

The real Royston Ffrench is no scruff either and when he ares at his race-track job of work there is always a suit encasing his bullrush body. Ffrench is 22 and different from his apprentice contemporaries. He rides with an American crouch they don't teach in Blighty. He is by far the most successful apprentice jockey operating in these islands today. And he

It may well be that there are more black people involved in the committees of the Ku Klux Klan than in British racing, and in this respect Royston Ffrench ffers far more than his prehis achievements will open up the turf to an untapped con-

stituency. Royston (weighing-room nickname "Tiger", after Woods) admits that during his formative years he characterised racing as "a girls' thing". He is not alone. "I think it's down to lack of knowledge about the sport," he said. "In athletics, for example, there are x-amount of black people in the sport but in racing there are very few.

STRATFORD

Charm 5.35 Viola Premiere

2.30 White Plains 3.00 Fijon 3.35 Monks Soham 4.05 Non Vintage 4.35 Anabranch 5.50 Supreme

© Leith-hand course with 200yds run-in.

© Leith-hand course with 200yds run-in.

© Course is SW of Stratford-on-Avon on A439. Stratford station in ADMISSION: Club £13, Tattersalls £9, Centre of the course £4.

in ADMISSION: CLD £13, Tathersalls £9, Centre of the course £4, CAR PAIRIC £2 or free.

■ LEADING TRAINLERS: D Nicholson 55 winners from 49 runners (300%), K Balliny 15-74 (203%), P Hobbs 13-68 (127%), G Balding 10-64 (150%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: N Wellamson 17-103 (155%), D Bridgmater £2-77 (150%), R Johnson 11-60 (163%), S Wynne 10-38 (26.3%).

■ FAVOLERTÉS: 183-455 (355%).

BLINKERED FRIST TIME: Lady Margaretta (300).

2.30 SHOTTERY MEADOW LADIES H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 2m 110yds

27233 SHETBIG MOON (20) (D BF) F Jordan 5 11 11 Emily J Jones (7)
(222- SADLER'S REALM (164) (BF) P Hobbs 4 1: 9 __Poly Carling
2PSP4 - MORNOT MAYHEM (220) J Spouring 7 1: 8 . Carolina Speacing (7)
34-381 CAPITAIN MARMALADE (7) (D) D Thom 8 1: 3 ...

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A -- 4-4

1.20

The Late of the la

diced people around, but in my sport I've not come across it. Everyone has been very helpful and supportive to me. It's not an issue as far as I'm concerned because the colour of your skin doesn't make you any better or any worse than anyone else."

French's ability, however, does set him apart. Unlike the peacock Oliver Skeete, who brought dreadlocks but little else to his equine pursuit of than novelty value in his corner. He is closing in on 70 winners for the season with a £1 level stake bettered by only one man in the top 15, the championship leader Kieren Fallon. Twelve months ago today he launched

BY RICHARD **EDMONDSON**

himself into racing's consciousness by winning the Cesarewitch on Inchcailloch. The partnership attempts to regain the title today. It is hard to believe that the only horse Ffrench knew until the age of 18 was the sensation he felt in his throat af-

Royston Ffrench is the son of a Jamaican immigrant, who, until his recent retirement was a welder. The family home is in the Shropshire New Town of Telford, where 18th Century ironmakers produced the world's first fron rails, iron steam locomotives and, in 1779, the first iron bridge. Mr and Mrs Ffrench produced babies. 15 of them, of which Royston

is the youngest.

"Obviously there are preju- a lot of Ffrenches, but they're not quite as close. "To be honest, I can't remember them all." Royston said. "People often wonder about that, but 15 is a lot. I think Desmond is the eldest and he's about 40."

The most influential figure in Ffrench's life, however, is his uncle Errol. It was he who rescued a teenage Royston from jobs in a pallet-making factory and a garage where he cleaned and valeted cars. Ffrench now concedes he was probably not showjumping, Ffrench has more on the fast track to the boardroom. "Obviously there's no carecr or a future in dead-end jobs like that," he said. "My uncle wanted me to get into racing even though I didn't have any great knowledge of borses."

Ffrench, with uncle's sup-

port, obtained a place on the British Racing School's course in Newmarket. Fellow pupils may have considered him a piece of cultural exotica to start with. but it was not an impression that was to last "Everybody on my course had been involved with horses before," Ffrench said. "I knew nothing. I'd had two pony lessons and I got run away with on the first and thrown on the

second so it wasn't the ideal in-Our tyro though made rapid, late headway and, by the end of the 11-week course, he was the victor ludorum, the recipient of the most-promising-student award. "I had to get my head down and work very bard to

catch up with the rest," he said. There is a lot of this talk of long labour in Ffrench's narrative. He is a karate brown belt and his thoughts appear to be part Grasshopper after tuition from the blind master and part Calvinist. "Every day is a chal-Like the Waltons, there are lenge and you never stop learn-

12 0400P- DAYS OF THUMDER (145)(D) Mrs S Odel 9 10 0Polly Gundry (7)

- 13 deciared -9ETTRIG: 4-1 Secien's Resion, 5-1 Down The Yard, 6-1 Captain Monnelade, A S.Sm, 13-2 White Plaine, 6-1 Summer Ville, 10-1 others

3.00 OXFORD SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m 110yds

ing," he said. "For me, to get on in life, you have to be disciplined and try your best. If you don't put anything into life you won't get anything out. I work very hard."

Ffrench's travails now conprenticed. If the young man ever gets intoxicated by the sweet every morning. Men whose names are now in neon, such as Frankie Dettori and Jason Weaver, have been the previous callow incumbents at Bedford House and now Ffrench is derstands the politics of the

idated rope bridge that separates champion apprentices and successful senior jockeys. Some, such as Richard

Ffrench: 'I had to work very hard to catch up with the rest'

Dicey, David Coates and David Dineley have fallen through the slats. Ffrench hopes to choose tinue at the Newmarket yard of his path more carefully. "It's Luca Cumani, to whom he is apyour apprenticeship and hopefully the guv'nor will stick by smell of success it is soon re- me," he said. "I'll be one of the placed by an earthier aroma as big boys until I lose my claim he mucks out his three charges and then I'll have to prove myself all over again and it will be even harder this time."

Royston Ffrench, ostensibly, would have more tangible aspirations than most. He unabout to embark on the dilap- game (the two pur

switching of the whip from one hand to the other is considered one of the smoothest pieces of prestidigitation in the game. This afternoon he may have to use such trickery on the living fibre of Inchcailloch. Only the time travellers know if he, like the old horse, is destined to become one of the notable stay-

Photograph: Peter Jay

in his left ear lobe are no longer

decorated) and he understands

that talent always finishes run-

ner-up to application. His man-

ners are what you would wish

great technicians of his age

thanks to extensive repetition

on his mechanical horse. His

Ffrench is already one of the

for in your offspring.

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5.35 CHIPPING NORTON MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds 25 ONE IN THE EYE (FBS) J Poulion 4 11 4 SINGLE MAN (F24) B Baugh 4 11 4 50-CUSPEDGE LADY (2011) N Trisker-Dawes 8 11 0... CLASSIC DAME (F45) S DOW 4 10 13

= 14 declared = BETTING:7-2 Assusphi, 5-1 Almohisrum, 11-2 Milliord Sound, 6-1 Cal De Sac, 7-1 Cintaic Dame, 8-1 The Singer, Golden Thunderbok, 10-1 others

PLP4P RAKAPOSH IMP (137) C. Jones 7 TO 7. L. Suthern (7) E. DANITY DAMSEL (FIE) R Whodrouse 4 TO 8. W Deam PRINCESS BELFORT (780) G Barnett 4 TO 8. R Greene PRINCESS BELFORT (780) G Barnett 4 TO 8. R Massey (3) 17 Action 4. To Action 4. To Action 4. To Action 6. To	1 O-FOS SAVUTI (12) (D) G Buting 8 11 2
GPG32 PYR POUR (210) (D) G McCourt to 12 0	5.05 CLAIREFONTAINE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 6f 110yds 1 508-1 SUPREME CHARM (20) (CO) K Swiny 5 11 6 N Williamson 2 102523 THIRTY BELOW (5) (D) M Chapmen 5 11 8 W Worthington

-7 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Art Prince, 9-2 Fine Thyra, 5-1 Pongo Wariog, Speaker Westberkl, 11-2 Fools Errand, 8-1 Monks Soham, 10-1 Pyr Four

4.05 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) 25,000 added 2m 3f

= 8 deciared = BETTING: 3-1 Talethath, 7-2 Winstord Hill, 4-1 Star Market, 5-1 Castle Se

4.35 PSM COMPUTERS HANDICAP CHASE

8.30 H*CAP (CLASS F) £3,000 1m 100yds 1 15603 MOLY MUSIC (12) (D) 39 13 _G Bardwill 7 2 20000 LIVE PROJECT (10) (D) 59 12 _R Flanch (d) 6 3 05032 SEA YA MATE (59) 39 11 __C Teopus (3) 12 4 40005 JEGAN BOY (133) (C) 89 11 __S Drowns 10

BETTRIC: 5-2 Dance To The Best, 4-1 Cheristed, 5-1 Pink Tickel, 7-1 Resewood Lady, 8-1 others

5 433222 DOWN THE YARD (6) M Chapman 4 to 0_Floors Needham (7) 5 06350 MAETERLINCK (172) G Thomas 5 to 0. Clare Thomas (7) 7 06022 White Planes (15) K Burles 4 to 2. Sophie Mitchell 8 165-5 A.S. Jam (10) (0) (8) 5 O Néal 6 to 2. Laura Pope 6 (177) MLING 88000K (182) J M Brackey 5 to 1. Victoria Roberts (7) 10 -01442 SIMBER VILLA (11) K Wingrow 5 to 7. Ann Stokell B 10 00-134 SLIGHTLY SPECIAL (44) (0) D Thom 5 to 0. Jan Wormall (7) WOLVERHAMPTON

7.00 Fonteyn 7.30 Malozza 8.00 Waypoint 8.30 Legal Issue 9.00 Dance To The Best 9.30 Classic Ballet

GOING: Standard. STALLS: 71 - outside; remainder - inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 61 to 1m 4f. Fibresand, left-hand, ovel course.

Course is N of town on A448 Wolverhampton tion for ADMISSION: Club E15, Tattersalis E5, CAR

PARK: FISE.

LEADING TRAINERS: R Hollmshood 60-586 (108%), M Johnston 53-225 (231%), J Berry 43-296 (145%), A Beiley 34-297 (15%). ● LEADING JOCKEYS: S Sanders 38-323 (121%). F Lynch 24-226 (105%), J Quinn 24-379 (53%), A Clark 20-280 (200%). Clark 20-83 (10.6%). • FAVOURITES: 390-1200 (32.5%).

ELBUKERED PIRST I TIME Weiverhampton: Passion (visored) (700) Balls (visored) (800), Golden Pound (visored) (800), Blanche The Af-RI INKERED FIRST TIME

7.00 MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES 8 (CLASS F) £3,000 added 3YO 7f

VERITY 89 ______ J F Eggs 5 060 WHO DEALT (28) 89 ______ J Caden 12 BETTING: 1-3 Fonleyn, 5-1 Verily, 8-1 Don't Worry Mile, 12-1 Pession, 20-1 Dozado Baech, 25-1 Ellamine, Toss And

7.30 CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) \$2,800

CO ROBERT'S DAUGHTER (11) 85 J Edinards 8 GEORGE (3) 6

13 declared
BETTING: 100-30 Ministra, 9-2 Greenbrook, 5-1 Junior 18-4
fit, 6-1 Alweys Lucky. 7-1

_B Pound

J KennengtJ F Tisley

8.00 HANDICAP (CLASS C) E7,325 6f 1 035001 SEVEC (FOLLITCH (16) CD) 48 TL. Closifor (5) 17 2 (02500 THE HAPPY FOX (20) (CD) 59 TS. L. Heuton 4 B 3 105050 MR BERGERMC (16) CD) 89 72 .D Sweeney (2) 12 105550 MR BERGERNC (16) (CD) 869 Y2. D Sweeney (2) Y2 380004 Z0G9YS DANCER (19) (CD) 869 Y1. JF Egym Y1 342004 SRR JOEY (USA) (45) (D) 897 __B Drowne 8 540402 SILCA (KEY SILCA (12) (D) 39 6.J Fortune 10 00000 DOLBLE (SCAR (26) (D) 495 __A Michaels (7) 98 22000 WAYPORT (27) (D) 495 ______T Sprake 5 100300 FORCING BID (72) (CD) (EF) 394 __S Sanctes 2 105000 ROBO MACIC (18) (C) 07 593 . Dome Of Macit 3

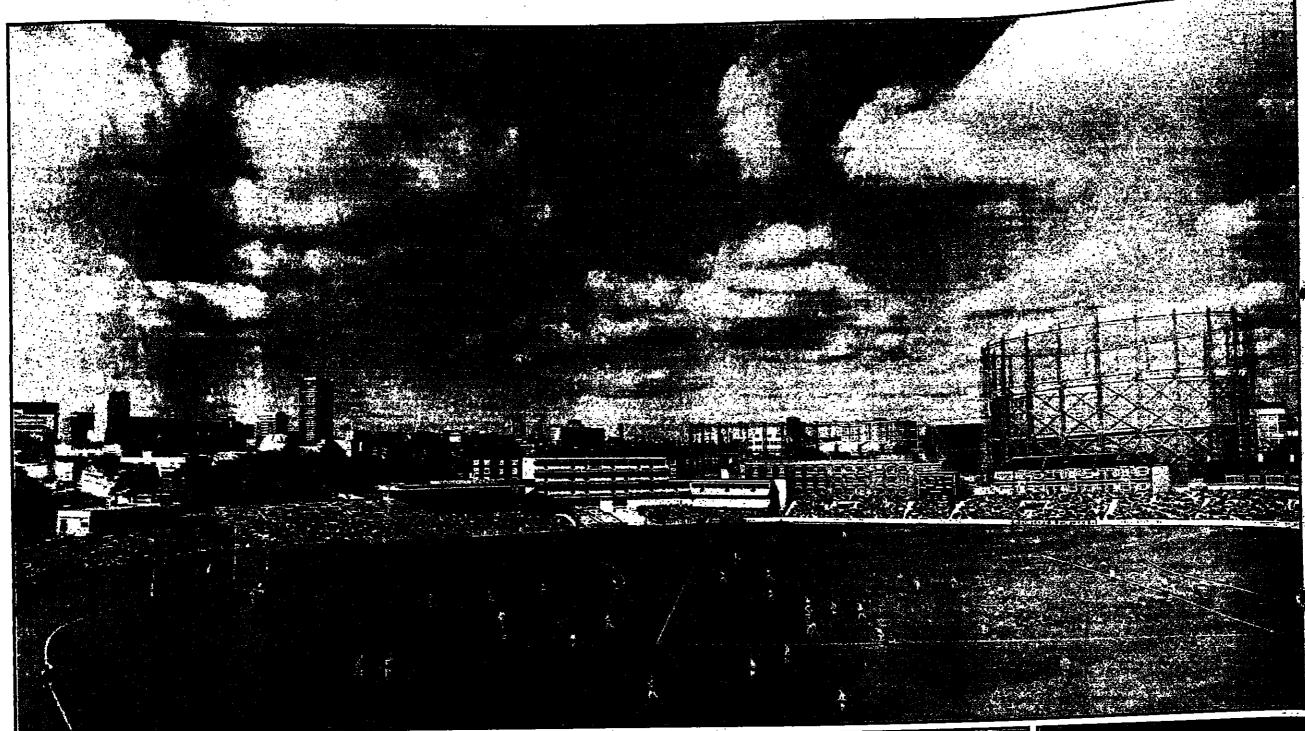
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The Oval has a long history of playing hosts to Australians, but in the autumn there is one fix-

can generate plenty of it does not match the

an impres-sive 73-55 passion in an Oval crowd, PHOTOGRAPHS BY sive 73-55 victory after ROBERT HALLAM noise and ...

tralian Football Cup.

Flags, banners and the chanting of team names are the order of the day for an Robert Hallam - can be ordered by specific products. event that has firmly estab- by telephoning 0171-293-2534.

ture at the London cricket ground which is quite unlike big names of Aussie Rules, any other occasion. against the West Coast Eagles.
While an Ashes Test match A crowd of 11,000 saw West

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the first quarter of the match.
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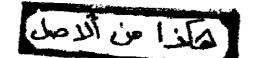












bet Seaman's never heard that one before. I laughed until I hanged myself



CHRIS MAUME SPORT ON TV

Fictional football on televi- club as it follows the decidedsion has always been tackled from behind by drama's eternal problem, suspension of dishelief: it has just never seemed real enough,

The Manageress was so far removed from actuality as to be little more than watchable tosh. Striker, despite being based on Gary Lineker's Spanish sojourn, with input from Mr Nice Guy himself, never convinced (and was most memorable for Warren Clarke's up-and-under manager). Eleven Men Against Eleven was hilarious, and grappled forcefully with the evils of the modern game, but never aspired to be anything

other than high farce. Now there's Sky I's new whose brief is clearly to render as authentically as possible the travails of a modern football

ly mixed fortunes of perennial relegation candidate, Harehester United. It makes you wonder why no one has ever thought of it before.

In a recent BBC documentary about Chelsea's young aspirants, youth team coach Graham Rix was filmed handing out several severe dressingsdown, mostly to do with deficiencies in the housework department, It's all about attitude, application and professionalism - shoddily cleaned boots translate into sloppiness on the pitch.

There's a scene in Dream Team that suggests they've done their homework (or at least watched the BBC film and taksoap opera, Dream Team, en notes). Harchester's Rix character, club stalwart Frank Patcham, is giving the talented but wayward Sean Hocknell a

in the shower plughole. The week before he had failed to mark his man at a corner and a goal had been conceded, "It's all about my favourite word, a great spat with the chairman awarenesss," Frank tells him.

Harchester's spiritual home is in the relegation zone, but under their flash-git chairman they are investing in youth, and how Sky have done it, the se-Dream Team focuses on five of the kids as they dream of glory, glory. A sensible move this, on Sky's part, putting at the heart of the programme a bunch of characters with whom the core audience - footballmad lads - can identify.

In the quest for realism, Ron Atkinson and John Hollins have been drafted in to play themselves (though the idea of the archetypal Chequebook Charlie presiding over a debut in the Chelsea game; his vibrant youth scheme is a lit- girlfriend and Frank's daugh-

the local radio station; and irony). And Atkinson, in a Georgina, the little rich girl phrase he often uses himself, football groupie who has Dean does the business. He handles on the boardroom table. It's his team talk well, and he has well paced, too, with lots of short establishing scenes. after they're knocked out of the For all the attention to de-Coca-Cola Cup by Chelsea.

tail, there are a few slip-ups. At The match footage itself is tothe beginning, for example, tally convincing - I'm not sure you hear Lucy on air talking about "Premiership strugglers cret probably being to use real Harchester United" - on local film and eschew close-ups. radio she would be much more However good previous eflikely to just say "United". forts have been, on TV or in the Then when Chelsea go 2-0 up cinema, they have always falljust before half-time, Big Ron en down disastrously when it immediately sends on young comes to action on the pitch. Dean - in reality, he'd proba-There's an ensemble of bly wait until the interval. And Harchester is supposed to be

characters all defuly portrayed. setting up a slew of dramatic possibilities of future episodes: a Midlands club, but there's not Dean Hocknell, Scan's brothan appropriate accent within earshot. But to counter the few er, who scored on his first-team mistakes, there are a few nice touches of realism - Frank

talking to for leaving a plaster the rum, he probably enjoys the ter Lucy, football reporter for mouthing "fuck" as Chelsea score; Frank's aforementioned bollocking of Sean Hocknell: and the fact that Harchester lose to Chelsea despite Dean's goal - no Roy of the Rovers

stuff there. I have to confess that the idea of Sky doing a football soap did not have me agog with anticipation. In fact, I was looking forward to donning the metaphorical bovver boots and giving it a right good kicking. Sadly, I was denied. So thank God for Clive Anderson and his new chat show, All Talk (BBC1), the title of which is sumably intended to mean that all the talk comes from the

irritating little man himself. At the age of 19, Anderson's first guest, David Seaman, was supported since he were a lad. The dream became a nightmare as he became one of foothall's teenage cast-offs, albeit temporarily. This was one of the few actual facts about the Arsenal and England goalkeeper to come out of his appearance. As is usual with Anderson, it was merely a

fusillade of scripted gags. The balding lawyer seemed particularly preoccupied with the punning possibilities of Seaman's name. Of course; I hadn't realised, the audience hadn't realised, schoolboys the length and breath of the country hadn't realised. The goalkeeper's surname spelt slightly differently means sperm. I bet Seaman's never heard that one before. I laughed until I hanged myself. I think I'll start a Clive Anderplaying for his dream team, son Must Go campaign. I need Leeds United, the club he'd your support. Now.

BASEBALL: WORLD SERIES

Cuban upstarts pitch for world domination

Tonight in Miami's Pro Player Stadium, a Cuban defector and rookie pitching star called Livan Hernandez will open hostilities in one of the most intriguing World Series in years.

Rupert Comwell savours the feast in store for Channel 5 nightowis as the Florida Marlins take on the Cleveland Indians.

Once again baseball has delivered its annual October miracle. Come the play-offs and the lazy, hazy game of summer is transformed into the tautest sporting spectacle in America, where games, careers, even history turn on a single play. But this year the gods who determine these things have been especially generous.

This is a match-up that was not supposed to happen - certainly not at the start of the season, and not even at the start of the month. Atlanta versus New York or Baltimore, the money and the form book said. Yet in three marvellous League series Florida disposed of mighty Atlanta, and Cleveland toppled first the defending champions, the Yankees, and then, most spectacularly of all, the Orioles.

Even now Baltimore must be wondering how they failed to win the AL pennant. All four of Cleveland's victories came by a single run, two of them in bizarre circumstances, and two despite epic pitching performances by the Orioles ace Mike Mussina, who gave up just one

run in a combined 15 innings. In a great series, the sixth and final game was greatest of all - scoreless until the 11th innings when Tony Fernandez blasted a 2-0 pitch from Armando Benitez over the rightfield scoreboard for the game's only run. Fernandez was only in the line-up because he accidentally injured the Indians' regular second baseman in batting practice a couple of hours before the game. "I felt had. But I guess the Lord had a plan and he worked it out this way."

The Almighty has also smiled kindly on Jim Leyland, the manager of the Marlins. The best in the game, everyone used to say, except that he had never managed a club with the resources to prove it. Twice Leyland took the Pittsburgh Pirates close, in 1991 and 1992, only to fall at the final hurdle of the NL championship series, each time to the Braves.

Only by seiling their best players - Barry Bonds to San Francisco, Bobby Bonilla to New York - could the Pirates stay affoat. By 1996 Leyland had had enough. A new fangled team in Florida beckoned, bankrolled by the billions of owner Wayne Huizenga. Helped by the small matter of \$100m (£62m) invested in new players, Leyland within a year has taken the Marlins to the World Series, courtesy of a 4-2 NLCS triumph over, who else. the Atlanta Braves.

Already he has made history. The Marlins are the first wild card team to reach the final stage since the expanded threestage play-off format was introduced for the 1995 season. And no expansion team has taken so short a time to reach baseball's supreme stage. Even the New York Mets waited 10 years before appearing in -and winning - the World Series in 1969.

And so to the cauldron of the Pro Player stadium tonight. This series is a clash of cultures: Sunbelt versus Rustbelt; the Hispanic élan of the de facto capital of Latin America against Cleveland and its gritty East European stock; maracas against the prairie drums of Chief Wahoo, leader of the Tribe.

The bookies make Florida

favourites, at least for tonight's game one. But tradition at least points to Cleveland. Baseball tends to make its upstarts wait, and most neutrals would argue the Indians deserve their turn, after losing to Atlanta in the 1995 finale. On paper the team is weaker than two years ago, shorn of the electrifying outfielder Kenny Lofton and the home runs of Albert Belle. Both, however, were difficult players to handle. The Indians' club-house chemistry - so important a factor in coping with the pressures of the play-offs has improved beyond recognition. "Quite simply, we believe in ourselves," says Matt Williams, Belle's replacement

from San Francisco. Most important, baseball is a game of streaks. These last three weeks Cleveland have been on fire. But streaks are made of luck as well, and maybe the Indians are about to run out of that commodity. If so, the Marlins are perfectly equipped to pounce. In slugger Gary Sheffield, they possess one of the game's supreme natural talents. Led by Kevin Brown and Livan Hernandez - "El Duque" to his legion of worshippers in Miami's Cuban exile community - Florida has a

Not least, World Series are places where historic circles are completed. At the Marlins. Leyland has been reunited with Bobby Bonilla, who rewarded him by batting in three crucial runs in the decisive sixth NLCS game against Atlanta. Against Cleveland the pair could go all the way. If so, for Jim Leyland's sake, all baseball would be de-

formidable pitching rotation.



History in the making: the Florida Marlins celebrate in Atlanta after winning the National League Championship

Photograph: Ed Reinke/AP

Breaking into the food packs on crazy journey of 'Yellow Submarine'

A few days out from the finish of the first leg of the Whitbread at Cape Town. We are power reaching in a wind that's gusting over 40 knots and it's not really a time to get philosophical about life. I am wedged into the navigation station and still find it difficult to stay on the seat. It's a major effort to type even a dozen words as the computer seems to move crazily out of reach even though its fixed firmly to the bench by Velcro.

On deck, walls of water wash over the crew, flinging them the length of the deck. It's almost impossible to stay on your feet and there will be more than a few bruises to show for it at the end of this.

No one was able to sleep for one 24-hour period, so everyone was on deck the whole time except the navigator, Mike Quilter, and myself when I joined him for a council of war. I hope those safety harnesses hold.

We think about safety all



GRANT

the time. Next to going fast, it's the only thought in our minds. And we have been going fast. Top speed has been nearly 30 knots with long periods over 20. It's just like being in the southern ocean, except that we were less than 30 degrees south.

There is so much water about that it's almost like being in a leaking submarine. In fact the Beatles song "Yellow Submarine" could be our

Merit Cup had wanted wind. And now he has got it. he is not so sure, even though his boat is in second place in the Whitbread Round the World Race.

Merit Cup is surfing off huge

cresting waves. They look like the big ones in the Hawaiian travel brochures. I have seen a lot of waves and these are the biggest. We are not quite sure why they should be so large.

I am not so sure. For one thing there are the theme song. It fits our colour reers out of control and up into looking over our shoulder to scheme and most certainly the wind to be knocked flat on Innovation Kvaerner. We need

The skipper of the number of times that has bappened and it has cost us a spinnaker, ripped twice but paired because the sewing machine has packed up. Paul Cayard, skipper of EF

Language, is sailing a great race. His yacht's display has been truly remarkable. We are just over 100 miles behind him as I write this - and that will be a difficult 100 miles to reclaim. We could well need a major change in the weather to do it.

The forecast from here to the finish is that the wind direction will move around - but there could be quite a lot of it. There is a low pressure area in front of us and a high pressure However, these are the con- area pushing in behind us. So ditions we wanted for three we are getting squeezed in beweeks but now they are here tween them. That is why we are getting all this wind.

While we are keeping an broaches, when the yacht ca- eye on EF Language, were also

to its side with everyone hang- to keep them out as well as try- strengths. Kvaerner's too. ing on. We have lost count of ing to advance on EF. Were happy to be in second place. because the alternative at this time is third or worse. The now having to wait to be re- name of the game is preserving our position and improv-

> I wonder what is going Smith and the other skippers further back in the fleet. They will have written off leg one by now - unless they believe in thankful that the race will not be decided on clapsed time.

Who would have suggested would put 100 miles on Dickson in 24 hours while we lost 35 on the race leader? That there would be 200 miles between third (Innovation Kvaerner) and fourth (Silk hard. But right now its quite

We have learned a few 21. We know EF Language's hours.

They have probably learned a bit about us.

We have also learned that we have been a little too mean to ourselves with the food, even though we tend not ing on it when the opportunity to eat much in the tropics. Portions will be larger for the next leg. With through the minds of Lawrie the increased speed we calculate that we will be in Cape Town a day earlier than we expected only a couple of days ago, so we have broken miracles - and they will be into the food pack that was earmarked for Day 33.

We have decided it is important to keep energy levels even two days ago that we high When conditions are demanding there is no doubt that the guys perform better with more food.

On the warm legs we cat less and the work is not all that cold and the work is really hard. Some of the boys have things since we sailed from been working on deck without Southampton on September a decent rest for more than 30

SAILING

Skipper's son loses finger in Whitbread accident

Campbell Field, the 27-year-old the winning boat in the last son of America's Challenge skipper Ross Field, has lost the top of his index finger in the first serious accident of the Whitbread Round The World race.

New Zealander Campbell, who is the American boat's designated medic, caught his finger in a pulley block on the mainsheet, the rope that controls the mainsail on the boat.

"Campbell is now resting in his bunk. He's all right but is suffering a bit of shock, so we are for some medical advice." his father said.

"It happened at about 10.30 at night. The seas were lumpy but there wasn't much wind, so Campbell was pushing the boom across, and as the sail eased out he got his finger caught in the main sheet block. "Losing the end of a finger

must be a family trait - I managed to do the same thing a couple of years ago."

While Ross Field skippered

Whitbread race, Campbell is a fully qualified skipper in his own right, and in 1995 was in charge of the winning boat in the Swan class World Championships.

While Campbell nursed his injured finger. America's Challenge was lying seventh in the 10-boat Whitbread fleet, now closing on the first-leg finish in Cape Town. The leader, the Paul Cayard

skippered EF Language, is 740 miles ahead of Field's boat, and going through to the race office 113 head of the second-placed Merit Cup. However, Cayard had run into lighter winds and was slowing, while Merit Cup and the third-placed Innovation Kvaerner, skippered by Knut KVaerner, skipperco by Knul Frostad, were picking up speed. WHITEREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE (first leg, 7,350 mBes, Southampton to Cape Town) Latest positions: 1 EF Lan-guage (Swe) P Caystra 1955 mBes to firsth; 2 Mem Cup (Monaco) G Datton + 13 mBes; 3 Intovation Kwemer (No) K Frostad + 27; 4 Sik Cut (GB) L Smith + 48; 5 Cheasie Rac-ng (US) M Facher + 827; 8 Tosthbe (US) C Dickson + 728; 7 America's Challenge (US) R Field + 739; 8 Swedish Match (Swe) G Krantz + 435; 9 EF Education (Swe) C Gul-lou + 672; 10 Brund Sunergy (Neth) H

Replacing genius: how England can cope without Guscott

Jeremy Guscott's latest brush with sporting mortality may have rendered Clive Woodward's dream ticket null and void but if he gets his midfield numbers right, England's new coach can still make rugby's selection lottery work to his advantage.

Chris Hewett believes fortune will favour the bold when the All Blacks, Wallabies and Springboks start asking the hard questions next

Clive Woodward has yet to pick his first England side, but this much can be stated without fear of contradiction: he looks a lot less daft in a baseball cap than his predecessor. If Jack Rowell was the Richard Ingrams of rugby selection - his abject decision to recall Rob Andrew as a panic measure against the Welsh last season could only have been applauded in the pages of The Oldie - Woodward talks so enthusiastically about "yoof" development that it would be no great surprise if Janet Street-Porter attended next week's training run at Bisham

Not that allegations of ageism could fairly be levelled at Woodward. His consistent line about "picking on form" is not so much a catchphrase as a mantra and when he says he will select the best player for each position "be he 19 or 39", he means it. However, the coach's four-year sojourn in Australia in the mid-1980s left an indelible mark on his rugby thinking and he has sent more positive signals to the new generation of England hopefuls in the space of a month than Rowell managed in three-anda-half years.

What is more, circumstances have gifted Woodward a heaven-sent opportunity to back his instincts and reshape the one area of the national side in dire need of major construction work. England's midfield axis has long

Carling and Jeremy Guscott men Alain Penaud, Christophe a different solution.



Age: 20. Club: Wasps. Caps: 1

Born in Brighton and a graduate of Bob Reeves' remarkable rugby academy at Bristol University, King is a career outside-half with a degree in low cunning and a doctorate in lines of running. A talented if inconsistent goal-kicker, his greater strengths lie as a prompter and string-puller for those around him. Perfectly suited to the modern handling are plenty of outsized, biff-and-bash centres thundering around in the



Age: 24. Club: Leicester, Caps: 0.

Not so very long ago, a 6ft 4in rugby player boasting 15 stones of ballast would have been found in the second row rather than the centre. Greenwood poses a formidable physical challenge to any midfield but it is his state-of-the-art passing skills that take him into a different dimension. There Premiership. Greenwood is something else.



Age: 26, Club: Bath. Caps: 23.

A jack of all trades but, just at the moment, master of none. Catt has seldom expressed any desire to play in the centre but an ever-growing number of good judges believe it to be his best position. Brilliant at manufacturing opportunities for himself and an instinctive finisher. Catt has more of the Tim Horan than the Michael Lynagh about him. The quicker England recognise that fact, the better.

Lamaison and Stephane Glas demonstrated at Twickenham in March and the Wallabies underlined in Sydney four months later.

Guscott did not play in either match and the lesson was not lost on Woodward, who immediately felt-tipped the name of Bath's peerless centre on his teamsheet for the Wallaby return on 15 Novunderachieved - Andrew, Will ember. Now he must reach for English faces but, far more the Tippex. Guscott, stricken by frequently, give opposition rarely struck a simultaneous back problems and facing a gallop, even when all three stark choice between surgery were in their pomp-and there and retirement, is out of the were frailties and inadequacies running and Woodward must again last season, as the French-rack his astute tactical brain for

gressively, wield the new broom, play Alex King at outside-half and pair Mike Catt and Will Greenwood at centre. It would be fresh, exciting and wonderfully unpredictable. Dangerous, too, in every sense of the word; a combustible blend of pace, strength, vision and youthful swagger that might occasionally blow up in midfields terminal doses of the

He should think and act pro-

Greenwood, still uncapped but a big hit with the Lions in summer, is the low-risk factor

heebie-jeebies.

in this innovative triumvirate: he is powerful, aggressive and utterly dependable. Deployed successfully as an outside centre during his time at Harlequins but switched inside by Bob Dwyer on joining Leicester, he is admirably equipped to perform the sheet-anchor role in midfield.

Most importantly, he is a master of the close-quarter pass. Greenwood forces opposition tacklers into committing themselves to contact, secure in his ability to work the ball into space from the tightest of corners. A centre partner blessed

damage alongside him. That centre should be Catt.

Bath's resident South African is in danger of spreading his considerable talents too thinly. Bounced around since arriving at the Recreation Ground in 1992, he has played with unalloyed brilliance at full-back and outside-half, but only in isolated flashes. Instructively, it was during Guscott's prolonged abhe put together his most consistent run of performances. The position? Centre. Set free by Stuart Barnes, he fairly murdered high-class opponents on

completed the league and cup exclusive property badly in

All this depends on Woodward selecting a stand-off with one or two Barnes-like qualities. Paul Grayson, with all due respect, does not quite fit the bill. although he possesses a kicking game second to none. If England possess a play-making circus master with a rugby imagination rich enough to give sence in the 1993-94 season that the All Black back row a run for their money, he is currently plying his trade at Loftus Road.

According to Nigel Melville, the director of rugby at Wasps,

need of renovation. "He's nowhere near as left-sided as be was. He can kick off both feet without thinking too much about it and some of his recent performances have been exceptional," said the former England scrum-half this week. "He is quite obviously a player of international quality. Have

no fears on that score.

"When Alex joined us last year, it was pretty plain from day one that he had the right qualities to go all the way. What he needed to work on was Alex King is more than ready his reading of a game and that South Africa during the with explosive pace and an eye a weekly basis. Guscott was to take up residence in he has done, to a remarkable for the gap could cause untold scarcely missed as Bath England's No 10 shirt - an degree. He's a very intelligent

person, he listens and he learns. He runs angles that few other players even see, he is one of the top tacklers in a Wasps team that puts enormous store on defence and he is very, very calm. Would I play him this autumn? Certainly I would."

Assuming Tim Stimpson plays at full-back and starts as England's goal-kicker, the King-Catt-Greenwood hinge would give Woodward an enviable range of options in the marksmanship department. It also gives him a midfield with an average age of 24 and, therefore, a future beyond the 1999 World Cup. It is, as they say, worth a punt.

virdes barr⊌

McGeechan faces bald facts of Saints' decline The Allied Dunbar Premiership is back on

centre stage this afternoon after a sixweek experiment in European integration.

As Chris Hewett reports, the return of domestic business is likely to be a real chore for two former international coaches.

It is almost exactly four months since Keith Wood, the phantom barber of Limerick, marked the Lions' triumph over South Africa by subjecting lan McGeechan to a notoriously grotesque short back and sides. He need not have bothered. The trials and tribulations of coaching Northampton have left Britain's most celebrated

tactician in an advanced state of premature baldness.

The Saints are down on their uppers. Knocked out of the European Conference by Connacht last week and pointless in the Allied Dunbar Premiership following defeats by Harlequins and Newcastle, McGeechan's lukewarm band of under-achievers go into today's Midlands derby with Leicester as the rankest of rank outsiders. Worse still, they have more than a dozen players on the treatment table and three of their most prized foreign imports - Jonathan Bell. Jason Chandler and Shem Tatupu - are definite non-

starters against the Tigers. Tim Rodber, the Lions No 8, returns as captain, though. His recovery from hamstring trouble has been the one positive aspect of a thoroughly rotten few weeks in the East

Midlands and if Paul Grayson, England's goalkicking outsidehalf, passes a fitness test this morning, spirits will soar another few hundred feet.

"We haven't got time to mess around," said Rodber yesterday, fully aware that a third league defeat on the bounce would burden his side with the unmistakeable whiff of play-off fodder. "This is a hell of a game for me to come back to but we simply have to start winning. We have the ability but it's not coming out." If it fails to come out this afternoon, Franklins Gardens' lamentable decline from fortress to wendy house will be one step nearer completion.

Leicester, still blowing hot and cold but clear title contenders for all their inconsistency, are at full strength. Joel Stransky plays at outside-half with Leon Lloyd and Waisalc gets the nod over the vastly ex-

Serevi on the wings and Boh Dwyer, their ever-demanding coach, will expect a back division of that quality to make handsome amends for last season's 22-19 defeat in the cor-

responding fixture. The fact that Alan Davies would be only too willing to swap places with McGeechan offers incontrovertible proof of Bristol's parlous position at the foot of the premiership. The West Countrymen are as penniless as they are pointless and they are unlikely to find much solace at the Recreation Ground when they go eyeball to eyeball with Bath in the second of this weekend's four local derbies.

Davies, a termer ceach of Wales, has handed Alex Poole a league debut in the Bristol front row - the youngster goes in against the rejuvenated Vic-

perienced but under-performing Richie Collins at openside. Andy Robinson, the Bath coach, is refusing to name his side until shortly before kickoff. Given that Bristol last won at the Rec some 16 years ago, Robbo is probably waiting for the results of complacency tests rather than fitness tests.

The remaining neighbourhood rumbles take place in London, where Richmond host Harlequins this afternoon and Wasps, the champions, welcome Saracens tomorrow. Richmond will field 10 internationals - they choose between their rival stand-offs. Earl Va'a of Western Samoa and Adrian Davies of Wales, this morning - and have carmarked the game as a "must win" affair, especially as Quins have lost Thierry Lacroix, Lautor Ubogu - while Craig Short rent Cabannes and Massimo Cuttitta to Latin Cup duty.

McIntosh free to face Llanelli following ban

European rugby takes a break this weekend but the aftereffects will still be felt in Welsh rugby's Premier Division.

Dale McIntosh, the Pontypridd No 8 who was sent off fand banned for his contribution to the battle of Brive, has completed his 30-day suspension and returns for the Welsh League champions in their

home game against Llanelli. McIntosh, who went before the European board on Tuesday to answer a disrepute charge after his thumbs-up to the Brive crowd, admitted that he was relieved to escape with a sharp reprimand. "I really feared I was going to get another ban or at least a fine," he said. "Thankfully they accepted my explanation that the gesture wasn't meant to be inflammatory. I just tend to put

my thumb up a lot, that's all." McIntosh will be hoping his thumb is pointing the way towards the top of the table after tonight's live televised match.

Liam Botham, on loan from West Hartlepool, could be in contention for a place in the Cardiff team to play Bridgend after impressing in a friendly against Čacrphilly on Tuesday. "I've got a month here and the main thing is to do enough to win a contract," he said.

Bridgend have taken the captaincy away from the Welsh international Gareth Thomas, who wants to leave the club, and given it to Matthew Lewis.

The other two Premier games are derby games, Ebbw Vale playing Newport, and Swansea taking on Neath.



match following serious shoulder trouble, and could feature, but England's Mark Regan would Sale y Newcastle

them of a second successive tournament matches.

quarter-final appearance. The groin injury of Richmond v Harlequins Bath coach Andy Robinson is keeping his line. Leicester's Scottish wing Craig Johner again. Lion Barry Williams returns to the front row after mer. After their victory over Stade Français in up under wraps until this morning. Powerful keeps him out. Northampton have lost their last missing Richmond's defeat at Seracens through Paris last weekend, London Irish hope to field Argentinian hooker Federico Mendez suc- three home league games but they did beat injury, and is among 10 internationals on an unchanged team. Gloucester are chasing a

Bristof's loose-head prop Alex Poole makes his Ellis, wing David Rees, centres Jos Baxendell league record stretches back to January 13, Wasps v Saracens league debut. Veteran Welsh international and John Devereux and flanker Dylan O'Grady, 1996 but Harlequins are chasing a fourth suc. Rota changes see New Zealander Mark Weedon ftanker Richie Collins is dropped, giving way to heading a lengthy casualty list. Centre Matt Yet-cessive league away win. the promising Craig Short but another veteran, low plays against his former club. Newcastle, lock Phil Adams, returns after injury. Bath have the league leaders, are without flanker Richard TOMOTTOW won all 14 league encounters with Bristol. Amold (hamstring), meaning a likely back-row trio of Peter Walton, Pat Larn and captain Dean Gloucester v London Irish Ryan, Prop Paul van Zandvliet faces a challenge Gloucester prefer Neil McCarthy to England re-defending champions have won seven out of Northampton's coach, Ian McGeechan, might from the fit-again George Graham. Newcastle serve hooker Pril Greening while Latin Cup comring the changes, given Saints' European Con- are seeking their ninth successive league win mitments rule out Phillipe Saint-André with piling a 100 per cent Premiership record Saraference failure against Connacht which deprived while Sale have lost four of their last five league. Audiley Lumsden deputising and former club cans have won five successive league games

with Italian prop Massimo Cuttitta, are involved ago. relish an opportunity against his former club. Injuries have ravaged Sale with scrum-half Kevin. In the Latin Cup. Richmond's unbeeten home

of the season tollowing arride surgery in the sumcessfully came through a midweek comeback. Leicester at Frankins Garden last season. parade. Harlequins' French internationals 10th home league win from the last 11 starts. Thierry Lacroix and Laurent Cabennes, together but Irish did win 10-9 at Kingsholm four years

and Scotsman Andy Reed in the second row for Wasps. Saracens have England international scrum-half Kyran Bracken back for his first league game of the season. Harlequins are the only side to win a league match at Loftus Road, and the captain Dave Sims starts his first league game for the first time since 1994.



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RUGBY LEAGUE: WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Broncos' early burst leaves Mariners marooned

Dave Hadfield reports from Auckland

Brisbane Broncos Hunter Mariners ..

The short but eventful voyage of the Hunter Mariners shuddered to a halt as they were run aground by the best club side in the world.

Brisbane assured themselves of the \$1m (£640,000) first prize in the World Club Championship during a dominant first half-hour in Auckland yesterday.

It was then that they built up a daunting 26-point lead, warning Great Britain in the process of what to expect from some of their Australian internationals next month. Although the Mariners fought back bravely after that, the damage was done.

The first boost for the Broncos was that their captain and scrum-half, Allan Langer, started the game after hattling against a groin injury for the last fortnight. The fact that he also finished the 80 minutes without any obvious problems means that Australia will be certain to pick him for their

tour, subject to any reaction setting in over the weekend. "He is an inspiration to the

team just by being on the field," said his coach, Wayne Bennett, "But, unlike the Grand Final, he was able to run with the ball in this match."

Langer had little need to test his dodgy fitness or take on the Hunter defence directly in that crucial opening 30 minutes. Just being there to direct their efforts was more than

Only three minutes into the game, Darren Lockyer, who will be the latest in an outstanding line of Australian fullbacks against Great Britain in a couple of weeks, spotted a gap from dummy-half, kicked through and, when the de-

fence concentrated entirely on stopping him, watched Kevin Walters pounce on the loose ball for the first try.

Hunter's weakness in marker defence caught them out again when John Plath darted through, and then came a 10-minute hat-trick of tries from Darren Smith, superb in the centres in this match but more like to face Great Britain from loose forward.

His first try came from Langer, Walters and Steve Renoul simply shipping the ball past an outflanked back line

His second sprang straight from a serum, with Langer and

Walters opening the path to the try line and Lockyer's inside pass gave him his third point. Brishane were 26-0 up and the game was, to all intents, over.

That Hunter managed to bounce back to any extent from that hopeless position reiterates everything that has been said about the remarkable spirit of a club which knows it is on death row, condemned to be sacrificed as part of a peace deal in Australia.

Facing humiliation, they dug deep and found the resources to resist and, after one promising attack had broken down, scored through Nick

That momentum earried forward into the second half with one sustained thrust at the line being denied only by a forward pass and another two only failing because tries

By the time that tries from John Carlaw and Zisti again had brought them within 14 points, the idea was starting to take seed that, if they had taken all their chances, they could be in the lead.

were disallowed on video

That turned out to be a short-lived theory. Brisbane had soaked up everything they had to offer and, in the last five minutes, scored tries through

restore the scoreline to its clear-cut proportions of the first half.

"I was proud of the team for getting here and I was proud of them for the way they fought back," said the Mariners coach, Graham Murray, and he has every justification on both counts.

If some of Hunter's stars of recent weeks, like Scott Hill and Brett Kimmorley, failed to fire, then the collective determination that had brought this far against all the odds was still obvious.

Nor was Murray prepared to concede that his club is

Wendell Sailor and Renoul to necessarily doomed, which could mean a wait for Leeds before they can confirm him as

their new coach. "We only know what we read in the papers," he said. "If there is still a Hunter Mariners next season I'll be coaching them. But it's quite flattering when other people think you've been doing a decent enough job to call you up and see what you're up to."

Brisbane Breneos: Lockyer; Devere Renout D Smatt Salc.; Waters, Langer; Ger Plath, Webcke, Tallis, Thorn, Ryan. Substitutes used: Hancock, Lee, Water Carroll

CRICKET

Board keeps eye on A team's tour destinations

England officials will continue monitoring the troubled situations in Kenya and Sri Lanka before deciding whether this winter's A tour should go ahead

at the turn of the year. The 18-strong party, including the coach, Mike Gatting, and the manager, Graham Gooch, and led by the Warwickshire opener Nick Knight, are due to depart for two weeks' preparation in Kenya on 30 December before a twomonth stay in Sri Lanka.

Both venues have suffered internal conflict recently, with Kenya's preparations for elections in December being disrupted while eight British lourists were injured in a bomb blast at a Colombo hotel this

Although the England and Wales Cricket Board are concerned over the safety of their tourists, they will delay making a decision until nearer

Simon Pack, the ECB's international teams director, stressed: "The England and

Wales Cricket Board are continuing to plan and prepare for the England A tour to Kenya and Sri Lanka.

"As is normal practice, we are liaising closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office concerning the local security situation, and they will let us know if it develops in such a way that it causes the ECB to change its plans."

England are particularly keen to continue their A team tours, because they provide a proven production line into the Test team, with three of last year's party to Australia -Dean Headley, Adam Hollioake and Mark Butcher - having graduated to the senior side for this winter's Caribbean

The A trip also gives England an opportunity to call on players who are already matchfit should any injuries arise in the West Indies rather than bring out replacements who have not played for several

Myles Hodgson



Groundstaff at the Sheikhupura ground mop up water from the pitch after heavy rain wiped out the first day's play of the second Test between Pakistan and South Africa yesterday. Today's play is also under threat because water seeped underneath the covers

Photograph: Muzammil Pasha/Reuter

BASKETBALL

Gayle rides back into Leicester in time to take on Sheffield Sharks

Garnet Gayle exchanged obscurity for the TV limelight yesterday when he signed for Leicester City Riders for the second time in his career, in time to play in tomorrow's televised Budweiser League game at his at former club, Sheffield Sharks.

Gayle, 33 next month, returned to his Nottingham birthplace this season to play National League basketball for

to face Las

tolowing by

the Knights, after spells with team and some defence. His Manchester Giants and Derby Storm last season left him without a Budweiser club for the

new campaign. Riders signed a sponsorship deal this week and their coach, Bob Donewald, said: "Garnet is a confident man who fits in with the maturity of players we already have like James Havrilla, Billy Singleton and Gene Waldron. Garnet brings fire to the

personality is important. He's a winner and we need that."

He made his original Leicester debut in November 1987 and had four seasons with the Granby Halls club. Gayle spent two seasons with the Sheffield Forgers in the National League before they graduated to the Budweiser competition in 1994

to become the Sharks. The hopes of the England coach, Laszlo Nemeth, of having league games postponed prior to the European Championship round beginning on 26 November have been dashed by another TV game, Sheffield's visit to Exide London Towers

on the previous Sunday. Several players from that game will be in Nemeth's 12man squad, who assemble that night in London before leaving for a friendly in Germany the

McColgan fit for Caledonian

following day en route to the Liz McColgan has shaken off 52min when winning the Great opening Championship game in a virus in time to pursue the Denmark on the Wednesday. Great Caledonian run title in

ATHLETICS

A meeting between the Eng-Edinburgh tomorrow. lish Baskethall Association and McColgan won in her debut the League failed to resolve the race two years ago and the 10conflict of interests. Mark Hankilometre event will probably be nen, of the EBA, said: "We both her last race before her next tarrecognise the need to help the get, the Tokyo Marathon, on 30 national team but it was too late November.

The 1991 10,000 metres world champion ran a personal best 10-mile time of exactly

South Run a fortnight earlier, despite suffering from a virus, which was diagnosed as fluid behind the ear.

Now she is aiming to finish with a victory before she leaves for her training base in Gainesville, Florida, on Thursday.

McColgan said: "After Sunday's race my sights will be firmly set on Tokyo and next year's London Marathon,"

HOCKEY

Teddington look to plug leaks

Jon Royce, the highly successful England Under-21 coach who has been absent from the Teddington side since September's World J_nior Cup in Milton Keynes, returns tomorrow to a side which shipped 13 goals in two games last weekend.

Teddington, last season's Cup winners and League runners-up, have been struggling since their opening win against Barford Tigers in which Paul Way scored a hat-trick. Way will be missing tomorrow, but their new signing, England's Under 21 captain Brett Garrard, will be making his first appearance for the club at Guildford and is certain to shore up the defence.

The Welsh international Tony Colclough will still be missing but there is a good chance that the Australian defender Simon Hawkins, who was injured against Hounslow last Sat-

urday, will be fit to return. Beeston and Doncaster, the newly promoted Premier clubs, are still struggling. Beeston's trip to Chigwell to face Old Loughtonians will be nned h sence of two of their players, Andrew West and Phillip Sully, who are with the England Under-18 squad in the Netherlands.

Yet another South African, Ryan Shrives, has arrived in this country and is expected to line-up in the Old Boys squad against Beeston. Doncaster entertain East Grinstead in an equally tough assignment.

SPORTING DIGEST

American football NIFL: Kansas City 31 San Diego 3. AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE Western Division

...5 2 0 153 113 ...3 3 0 107 134 ...3 4 0 106 157 4 0 151 148

The World Cross-Country Champlonships, scheduled for Belfast in 1999, will go ahead despite the announcement this week by the Braish Athletic Federation that it was bankrupt and was putting its business in the hands of administrators.

CHCKET
SHEFTELD SHIELD (third day of four)
Brisbane: New South Wates 484 (M Sevan
153, M Taylor 129; Queensland 520 for 3 M
Hayden 151; M Love 129, S Law 107no).
Adelatide: Teamenta 301 (M Diversito 68.
S Young 58) and 286 for 4 (R Ponting 12.
M Diversito 94; South Australia 381 (D
Leimson 138, J Siddons 81; C Miller 8-77).

TODAY'S NUMBER

20

The number of different languages that the guide book to next summer's football World Cup finals will be printed in The guide book for the last finals, held in the United States in 1994, had editions in Thai, Japanese and Chinese.

Football

Football

James Scoworoft, ipswich's England under-21 striker, has undergone knee surgery and is expected to be out of action for up to a month.

WORLD CUP Asian zone econd round, group & han 4 (Airsm Manourim 3, Al-lequer Modi-Roosia 44, Karim Bagheri 64, Al Deel 83) China 1 (Neo Yi Jun 88).

THURSDAY'S LATE REBULTS: Pontise League Premier Divisions Brimingham 2 Blackburn 1: Shelf Wed 1 Everton 4; Stoke 1 Itarriers 0 (at Newcastle Dem). First Divisions Grimsby 0 Coverstry 2; Michiesbrough 0 Port Neile 2 Third Divisions First Divisions GPR 0 Assaral 0 (at Newcastle Dem). First Divisions GPR 0 Assaral 0 (at Newcastle Divisions First Divisions Cup 1 of Newford (3 Righter 0 for Newford). Tellersham 1 Norwich 1 fat Spure Lodge, Chipmed, French Leaguer Massellies 2 (Banc 32, Reventall 39) Metz 0; Guingard 0 Bordeaux 1 (Ricardino 73, Haller Cup Third round, first legs Mills 3 Sempotor 2.

GOIf

WALT DISNEY CLASSIC (Orlando, Fin) Leading first-roand scores (players US upleas notedit: 64 P Stewer: 65 D Duret, F Licidiar; 65
L Rinker, N Lencestor, J Delsing, A Magges, 8
Gump, T Woode; 67 J Maggert, A Doyle, B Ginson, B Bryans, L Medisea, O Lireat, T Tyte, C Perry, D Forsmer; 65 J Summer, D Edwards, J Kelly, J Cook, S Hert, J Duret, R Feir, C Strange, B 19(8), D Weldor! P Blackmar, Selectad: 69
G Walte (NZ); 70 H Kose (Japan); 71 B Hughes (Aus); 74 R Alarcon (Med., S Lyte (GS),
AL FRED DUNHILL, CUP (Old Course, St. Andrews, aboond day) GROUP 1: England 1 Argentlint 2 (R. Claydon 74 lost to J Cocares 71 M. James 71 bt E Florrero 72. L. Westwood 72 lost to A Cabrera 71; Usat-ed States 3 Japan 8 pt Officers 70 bt 1 Water-abs 72. J Leonard 24 bt N Salo 82, B Faxon 73.

Japan 2 0 2 0 0

Linked States wit quality if they best England.

Broterd will Quality if they best United States
3-0. England would also quality if they best United States
3-0. England would also quality if they best United

ed States 2-1, providing Arganizat do not best

lapan 3-0. If that hispoers sent-finel place with

be decided by which teem has taken lewest

shots in three group matches)

GROUP 2: Australia 2 Taivan 1 (R Allanby 74

lost to Heish Vs-our 13, 3 Eskington 76 bt Chen

Lang-hat 78 at 20th, S Applicity 77 bt Lu Haichuen 90; Sweden 3 France 6 Li Heagymen

To bt Filmmud 78, 1 Partney 73 bt M Farry

To bt Filmmud 78, 1 Partney 6 Li M Farry

To Ly Lobertsson 72 bt J Van de Velde 73,

T. P-U Johansson 72 bt J Van de Velde 73. PW L Pts Wins

(Winters of Zimbabwe v New Zeeland quality for sent-finals)
WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPTONSHIP (Seoul, S Kor) Leading second-round activities 141 ft Altraceson (Swe) 70 71; C Johnson (LIS) 88 72; J inkster (LIS) 87 76; K Watch (Aug) 87 78, 142 A Nicholes (SS) 77 11, 43 K Actions (LIS) 98 77; B King (LIS) 73 77; L Davies (SS) 73 77; 144 ft Junies (LIS) 73 77; L Davies (SS) 73 77; 74, 146 L Noumenn (Swe) 78 70; D Andrews (LIS) 75 77; C Weller (LIS) 75 77; A Somenson (Swe) 78 77; D Andrews (LIS) 75 77; C Weller (LIS) 75 77; A Somenson (Swe) 70 78 149 Km Mi tyus (S Kor) 71 78, 183 I Shioteni (Japan) 78 74.

183 I Shioteni (Japan) 78 74.

183 I Shioteni (Japan) 78 74.

185 TORIC CHALLENGE PGA EUROPEAN CHALLENGE TOUR Leading first-round scorus; (EG) or let uniess states(); 44 J Candre (EG); 68 K Brink (Swe), L Jernes, F Cupliand (Ff), S Learney (Auc), R Whorlessin, A Sobrinto (Pur), 69 D Shio (Por), J Bickertin, C Arsoz (Ge), N Briggs, M Larmer (Swe), F Larson (Swe), P Ametirain.

ice skating THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS:

Rugby League SUPER LEAGUE WORLD CLUB CHALLENGE Final: Bribbare Broncos 36 (Files: D Smith (S), J Plan, K. Wellers, W Selber, S Roncott, Goele. M Devore (4) Hunter Marthers 12 (Files: N Zeol

Snootker
GRAND PRIX (Bournamoush) Second round:
W Brown (Eng) bit A Hamilton (Eng) 5-4; 8 Snaddon (See) bit M Cauch (Eng) 6-4; 9 Wyless (Eng)
bit F O'Britan (m) 5-2; 8 O'Sulken (Eng) bit F Jones (Eng) 5-4; D Hamid (Eng) bit G Green
(Eng) 5-3; J Burnett (Seo) bit S Hendy (Seo)
5-3; J White (Eng) bit J Ferguson (Eng) 5-0; S
Lee (Eng) bit T Shaw (Eng) 6-4; J Feed (Eng)
bit T Shaw (Eng) 5-5; J Morgan (Wal) bit
Jones (Wal) 5-4.

Today's Order of Play: 11 am S Devis (Eng)
v D Dale (Wal) 5-4.

(Seo) 3pra M Williams (Wal) v M Stevens
(Wal) and D Morgan (Wal) v B Staudion
(Soo); Toes: A McMarias (Soo) v D Roe (Eng)
and J White (Eng) v W Thome (Eng).

Speedway Spectus was proposed to the count second leg: Belle Yue v Swindon (water-togged track). Belle Yue have consoled the Extendent will now note at Covering tonglet, 7:30 pm in the Best leg bit the semi-famil. The second leg will be at Swindon on Sat 25 Cct, 7:30pm.

WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Sydney, Aus) Charle-Breis: S Wright (Eng) 5t. LYdg (Aus) et 9-1 9-5 9-5; C Overes (Aus) bt C Jacomen (Eng) 49-6 7-9-9-0-9-5; S Fiz-Gerald (Aus) bt S Homer (Eng) 9-3 9-0-4-; M Mertin (Aus) bt S Schoens (Gar) 1-9 9-2 9-5 9-5.

in this instance because of the

- Richard Taylor

TV considerations."

Scotland's Peter Nicol falled on Thursday night to score a second successive win on Egyptian soil over Jansher Khan, the world champion. He lost 15-8, 12-15, 15-11, 15-10 In his 71 minute, four-game semi-final of the Egyptian Open Championship, Jansher is now just one match away from the nact leg in his campaign to win every major event played around nact month's World Open in Malaysia, which he has elected not to play. EGYPTIAN OPEN (Alexandria) Semi-finals. Jansher Khan (Peta) 12-16 (Scot) 15-8 12-15 15-11 15-10; J Power (Can) bt D Harts (Eng) 15-9 15-12 15-3.

Tennis

Swimming

CZECH MODOR MEN'S ATP TOURNAMENT (Ostrava) Singles, second round: 8 Ulfrach (Cz Rep) br J Kroslak (Slovak) 6-4 6-2; M Nor-nan (Swe) br S Bruguera (Sp) 6-4 6-7 7-5; 3 Nacasswic (Cros) br B Ulfrach (Cz Rep) 7-8 6-2.

Wu Yarryan broke the world record by nearly two full seconds and won the women's 200m individual medley title at China's eighth National Games yesterday. Wu finished in 2min 972sec well under the previous record of 2:11.55 set by her compatriot Lin Lin at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

LYON ATP TOURNAMENT Second round: T Hass (Ger) to J Alonso (So) 8-2 6-3; T Enqvist Swe) bt Martin (US) 7-6-6-3; M Prilippous-sis (Aus) bt R Remeberg (US) 4-8-7-6-6-1; W Kudankov (Rus) to F Whole (Nethle-8-6-; C Ploins (Fr) bt A Clement (Fr) 6-2-6-2; F Sur-tron (Fr) bt A Clement (Fr) 6-2-6-2; F Sur-tron (Fr) bt K (Valleck) (1981) 6-4-6-3; U-K Goeliner (Ger) bt T Herman (GB) 6-4-6-3; Char-

Weightlifting

Weightlifting
China's Ding Meiyuan broke the woman's over-83kg snatch and jerk world records yesterday, snatching 1375kg and jerking 170kg for a two-lift total of 3075kg, also a world record. The previous snatch record of 1125 kgs was set in Yangzhou in July this year by China's Wang Yanmei. The jerk and total records of 1550 and 2600 kgs were set by China's Li Yajuan in Melbourne in November 1993.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

goal against my team and yet, of the match. and this is incredible, here we are wondering who we are going to get in a play-off game." Cesare Maldini, the Italian coach after drawing with England.

Lazio, the owner Signor Ende. Cragnotti said the next time The looked like a pint of cause you can tell him I've enenjoys his moment of tri- during the Italy game.

umph in Rome. thought it was in the net." Glenn Hoddle, England's

• "No one scored even a header in the dying seconds The ref was absolutely

magnificent. It is the fairest performance I have seen from a referee for years. He needs to be praised to the hilt." Hoddle on the Dutch • "When I moved from referee Mario van der

I came to Italy would be on Guinness running around boliday. And he was right, be- in the second half." Gascoigne on England skipper joyed my holiday tonight. Paul Ince after he was forced thank you." Paul Gascoigne to wear a head bandage • The game is killing me

"It was like a dream and right now. I have played nine I think my heart was pretty tournaments in a row and it's close to stopping because I too much." Colin Montgomerie after losing in the World Match Play Champicoach, on the Christian Vieri onship quarter-finals.

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THE **GAFFER TAPES**

Cornfield where the chairman has given me permission to enhis agent's brother's gardener

good package. whenever he wants; Deidrie the the Mop & Bucket where they shorts. Glenn seemed very are going to install a dentist's chair in the tap room; and he'll be allowed to straighten all the dressing-room towels before a

I know there's no way the others can compete with that. Stan Collymore's contract stipulates that only he can be towel man at Villa Park while Duncan Ferguson is Everton's

hasn't got a lake.

It'll be good to sign him as ter the chase for Paul Gas- I've had a bad week. I was late actually ended up in the Trevi coigne. I've already spoken to getting back from Rome having been arrested for swimming and he tells me we've a very in the Trevi Fountains. I kept ons" as we drove past. It could telling them I was innocent, have be worse, I could have got I think we've covered all the that I was merely trying to wash bases. He can go fishing on Sir Paul Ince's blood off the jack-Hirem Firem's private lake et I'd lent him at half-time. This followed the embarrassment of tea lady is lined up to be his Saturday morning when Glenn personal counsellor; Jimmy and I went for a quick prayer Five Bellies is to be given a at St Peter's. Apparently you grace-and-favour flat above aren't allowed in wearing

nice about it. He said he'd just make it a quick prayer so I wouldn't have to wait outside for long, so I don't think it was related to the team bus leaving me behind at the ground after the game. With the carabineri bashing

tricky journey back into Rome.

Dramatic news from the Old counsellor and Alan Sugar the back of Angelo Di Livio's would never have adopted put it up in the boot room. I scooter but, sad to report, he 4-3-3. was still a bit wound up and I Of course, I realised after-

poor fellow took a wrong turn

and found himself making a

If that wasn't bad enough I

got back to find I'd been

snubbed by the FA. They

launched a new book, "Eng-

and invited a few has beens and

never-weres like Trevor Brook-

ing and Ray Clemence to pro-

mote it. Not a mention of my

against Nepal in 1964. That was

a seminal performance, Sir

land: The Official FA History",

Spanish Steps.

wards why I wasn't mentioned. fountain when he took objec-The book's been brought out tion to my singing "Three Liby Virgin - well, you might find me looking at a book of virgins but not in one. a lift with Christian Vieri. The

I've had to take training all this week as Kit Mann, my assistant, has been away on a spevery hairy journey down the cial mission. After hearing about Spartak Moscow having to replay their European match with Sion because their crossbar was too small, I've sent him round to measure the goals at all the clubs we've lost at this season. He could be away some time.

While he's absent I've taken the opportunity of removsix minutes for an FA XI ing Howard Wilkinson's picture. When we went on that coaching conference a couple Ivor Niggle has an bruised heads outside that made for Alf told me himself if he hadn't of weeks ago there was a pic- jaw. seen my display on the wing ture of Wilkinson in the good-I eventually wangled a lift on that night in Kathmandu he ie bag. He's Kit's hero so he's

haven't got used to it though, I was convinced those staring eves were following me around. I'd come back from training an there'd be a voice saying things like "Have you worked on their hall skills? Are they fit enough? Is their shape right? Do they have kippers for break-

fast?..." It was driving me mad. On top of everything else we've had the police round. One of the YTS boys has been nicked for trying to steal the ticket dispenser at the meat counter in Tescos. He claims Sir Hirem asked him to pinch it after the physio decided to set up a queueing system in the treatment room following an unfortunate incident.

Meanwhile Shaun Prone is out with an injured hand and

> Barry Gaffer was talking to Genn Moore

Italy in the grip of a bout of self-doubt

If there is one thing Italians like to do more than revel in a great footballing victory, it is wallowing in the misery of a great footballing

opportunity missed. Andrew Gumbel reports on a week of postmortems, recriminations and fear for the future after the Italy's 0-0 draw against England in Rome.

It doesn't seem so long ago that the Italian side was brimming with confidence about their prospects for the World Cup. Arrigo Sacchi, the abrasive and unpopular national coach, was sent packing at the beginning of the year, and in his place came a gentleman and a shrewd tactician, Cesare Maldini who quickly masterminded a victory over England at Wembley. Italy had Zola, they had Baggio, they had Ravanelli. What on earth could go wrong?

Well, the Italians now know what did: too many draws against sides, like Georgia, that they should have beaten even on a bad day, and not enough punch against the real adversaries in their group, most notably England, who undoubtedly got the best of a tense, if goalless, draw in the Olympic Stadium in Rome last Saturday night.

Rubbed up against the humiliating reality of having to go through the play-offs to clinch a place in France next year, the Italians - both the team and the country at large - have been doing some bard thinking this Or is it one or more of the play-

ers? Or pure bad luck? Most outspoken in the immediate aftermath of the England match was Gianfranco problem, in midfield. This was Zola, who complained that he had been forced at the last minute to play in an unfamiliar position, just behind the front line of attack, and thus had his one early injury (to Paolo Malconsiderable talents wasted. Was dini) and the Italian middle was this Maldini's big mistake? Ap-Zola told his coach the same assessed: "It's worrying when a ternazionale's newly acquired



read in the next day's papers. The two of them had agreed on Zola's position days in advance, and the Chelsea striker sounded off to the press merely to take some of the heat off what had week. Is the problem Maldini? undoubtedly been a disappointing personal performance.

Such devious media management actually served to distract attention from Italy's real where England showed their superiority most decisively, and where the Italian side are most sorely lacking. All it took was floundering. As the authorita-

night not to believe anything he northern European midfield runs rings around us... If we don't have Albertini, or Di Matteo, or Baggio, all of a sudnot Maldini's fault if our midfield isn't producing miracles."

Maldini himself referred to the problem too. Many of the most accomplished midfielders playing in the Italian league game are foreigners, he noted, giving him limited choice for the national side. Overall, Maldini insisted that his team had nothing to regret: true, they were outclassed on the night, but on blame on anyone in particular. the other hand they gave nothing away.

One man who has dissented parently not: it now emerges that tive football writer Gianni Mura strongly from that view is In-

Brazilian star, Ronaldo. "I think latest Fifa classification figures, are certainly considered the Italy will qualify for the World Cup," he said, "but if they carry on playing the way they are den we're on red alert. So it's now they won't even get through the first round. The Italians played very badly and

in very disorderly fashion." Asked about Maldini directly, Ronaldo laid the sarcasm on thick. "He's got great probiems. In Italy there are so many good players that it's very hard for him to pick and choose."

Overall, however, the press and public have tried not to pin Instead, they have been gripped by an uncharacteristic sort of panic - the fear that Italy really may not be as good as they always thought they were. The

published this week, appeared to bear this out, rating Italy a lowly 16th on the world scale, alongside Morocco - as low a showing as Italy has had since the figures were introduced four years ago. The loss of national confi-

dence manifested itself all too clearly in the draw for the playoffs. On Monday morning, the Italian papers were saying they'd be happy with any side except Yugoslavia. By Monday evening, with Russia the country pulled out of the Fifa hat, the line had changed to: we'd have been happy with any side except Yugoslavia or Russia.

Italy remain the favourites to pull through the play-offs and qualify for the World Cup, and would say amen to that.

toughest possible opponents by the Russian players, but you certainly wouldn't know that in this most football-obsessive of countries. Italy is beset by stagefright, and won't overcome it until a good couple of balls have found the back of the Russian

net in Moscow on 29 October. Seeking to convey the mood after the England game, one newspaper, the Corriere della Seru, borrowed a line from Malcolm Allison uttered after Manchester City were knocked out of the FA Cup by Fourth Division Halifax: "Losing this game may not be the end of the world, but it certainly feels an awful lot like it." A lot of Italians right now

Brazilian fans fail to show Corinthian spirit as bus wars break out

BRAZIL

This sort of thing just does not seem to happen in England... 26-team league and only goal late on Tuesday night, on the difference separates them from outskirts of São Paulo, a coachload of Corinthians fans blocked a motorway, then ambushed and stoned the bus of turning from a game.

The Corinthians midfielder Neto said that, after forcing the team bus to stop, the fans attacked it with sticks and stones, following the team's 1-0 defeat away to Santos.

"There were enormous sticks and enormous stones everywhere. I was afraid of dying."

Corinthians fans have become increasingly restless with pany puts it. their team's campaign in the Brazilian League. Despite a has 80 outlets nationwide, said Cup play-off between Hungary

host of expensive new signings, Corinthians, one of the biggest clubs in Brazil, are 21st in the the relegation zone.

The fans used the coach in which they were travelling to block the road. The Corinthitheir own team as it was re- ans' coach driver refused to open the door and the fans dispersed when police arrived. The team bus was given a police escort onwards.

GERMANY

"For the first time in my life. A funeral company has begun I was scared," Neto said, offering coffins in the colours of Germany's Bundesliga clubs - if fans want to stay true to their favourite team even after the "final whistle." as the com-

The Ahorn company, which



AROUND THE WORLD BY RUPERT METCALF

it came to the idea when a fan of Bayern Munich demanded that his coffin he painted in team colours.

HUNGARY

Thousands of funs are set to miss the first leg of the World unfortunate venue switch. The vital qualifying match

on 29 October will now be played at Ferencvaros' Ullōi Ut stadium (capacity 17,700), as the much larger Nep stadium (capacity 76,000) is being renovated for next year's European Athletics Championships. The Yugoslav football fed-

eration has received over but its Hungarian counterpart would be made available to visiting supporters.

RUSSIA

The Russians are also having problems with the venue for their World Cup play-off first leg against Italy on 29 October. Last weekend, when Russia

Moscow's Luzhniki stadium two-year ban after testing poscut up disastrously in its first big match after a £1.25m stadium renovation. "During this major reconstruction we somehow forgot about the turf quality at Luzhniki." Moscow city council's chief engineer, Vladimir Sorokin, said.

The Russians will now stage their encounter with Italy at the 10,000 inquiries for tickets. 51,000 capacity Dynamo stadium - where the pitch is also said that only 1,350 tickets far from perfect but, as a Russian Football Union vice-president, Alexander Tukmanov, said: "It is still better than Luzhniki's turf."

ARGENTINA

Argentinian footballers have threatened to strike over doping rules which last week conbeat Bulgaria 4-2 in a World demned the Independiente what we think."

and Yugoslavia because of an Cup qualifier, the pitch at striker Albeiro Usuriaga to a itive for excaine.

One of the players who claimed the rules were too harsh and needed to be rethought was, you may not be surprised to learn, Diego Maradona. "The law should offer the player a cure for his problems, not a revolver to kill himself," Argentina's former World Cup captain, who failed a drugs test in August for the third time in his career, said.

The law, passed in May. condemns any footballer who fails a doping test in Argentina to a two-year ban, then a life ban if he fails again, "It makes me angry that they blame football for all this country's problems," Maradona said. "They invent these rules... and never call us [the players] and ask us

SIDELINES

Foot on both sides of Mersey divide

Irrevocably red by political conviction, Michael Foot was a true blue during his pre-war days on Merseyside. In a poetic paean to



Everton the future Labour leader even spoke of "God's lesser breed of men at Liverpool". So where does that leave the rare breed who crossed the divide between

today's derby foes? Stanley Park may be all that separates Goodison Park from Anfield, but barely two dozen players have had a foot in both camps. Unless you count Michael Owen, whose dad Terry played for "the other lot", or Steve McManaman and Robbie Fowler, both boyhood Evertonians like Ian Rush. Home captain Dave Watson is the only man involved in

this afternoon's duel with dual experience. Howard Kendall transformed Alan Harper and Kevin Sheedy from Liverpool reserves into title-winners with Everton in his first reign. In his second he relieved Graeme Sourcess of Peter Beardsley and Gary Ablett. Johnny Morrissey and David Johnson had previously made the same switch, as did David Burrows (via West Ham), with only Steve McMahon (via Aston Villa) reversing the

The last period of such localised transfer activity came more than a century ago, when Alex Latta and Fred Geary blazed a trail from Everton to Liverpool. Jack Balmer followed it in 1935, just as Foot was being moved to verse, and went on to became the first player to score a hat-trick in three consecutive matches. Poetry in motion, you could

Ten things Coventry's Bermudian Kyle Lightbourne might be missing



5 Bermuda chowder -1 Bermuda's national library, which will proudly re-fish bits, peppers, parsley, open after refurbishment, furnigation and replenishment. It only has 115,000 books, but that is still 1.05 for every Premiership spectator at Highfield Road

this season. 2 The furore that might see a McDonald's built on Bermuda next year after and relies on mopeds. the Prohibited Restau-8 Golf. Bermuda is the rants Act 1997 was chal- most densely coursed 3 A dark 'n' stormy. Rum and ginger beer.

4 Gombey dancing, which appears to be a rabble jumping up and down much like Coventry's play-

garlic, curry powder, Worcestershire sauce, celery, ketchup and carrots. 6 Reliance on the luxury tourist trade for a living. :Ghee sui 7 The pace of life. Bermuda has as 20 mph speed limit, a legal maximum of one car per household

_ -=:-

. Public we

lenged in court this week. (eight in 22 square miles) country in the world. Wreck-diving. (Al-

though the Sky Blues tend to dive down the table looking fairly wrecked come springtime). 10 The triangle.

NAME OF THE GAME

Formed in 1886 by workers at the Royal Arsenal in Woolwich, the club's first name was "Dial Square", which was the name of one of the workshops at the state munitions factory. The name was changed to "Royal Arsenal" later that year and to "Woolwich Arsenal" in 1891. "Arsenal" was adopted in 1914 after the club moved north of the Thames to their present Highbury home.



League teams will both need

some Dutch courage next

United entertain Fevenoord. Newcastle United trav-

Newcastle have met

Dutch opposition only once

tition, when they beat

Feyenoord 4-2 on aggregate

in the first round of the

Fairs Cup - forerunner to the

It was the start of a mem-

Champions'

On 18 October 1972, Crystai Palace manager Bert Head made the headlines with a "staggering" bid for week. While Manchester two Swindon players, Don Rogers and Rod Thomas.

el to PSV Eindhoven. In a week when Palace have been linked with a possible £4m bid for Paul Gascoigne (not to mention before in European compeweekly wages estimated at around £40,000), the sums involved 25 years ago seem small.

However, one report at the time said: "Head, who has already spent a staggering £275,000 on three players this season, is ready to write another huge cheque: for the pair." His £225,000: to win the competition by offer for the duo was not suc- ; beating the Hungarians of cessful, although he did : Ujpest Dozsa 6-2 on aggre-

Uefa Cup ~ 20 years ago. orable campaign. After victories over Sporting Lisbon, Real Zaragoza, Setubal and Rangers, Newcastle went on later sign Rogers.

gate in the final,

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

TRANSFERS: David Hirst (forward) Sheffield Wednesday to Southampton (£2m); Stale Solbakken (midfielder) Lillestrom to Wimbledon (£250,000); Richard Gough (defender) Kansas City Wizards (US) to Rangers (undisclosed); Ivano Bonetti (midfielder) unattached to Crystal Palace (week-toweek contract).

LOANS/TRIALS: Dougle Freedman (forward) Crystal Palace to Wolverhampton Wanderers (one-month loan); Kevin Muscat (defender) Crystal Palace to Wolver hampton Wanderers (one-month loan); Markus Munich (midfielder) Bayern Munich to Newcastle United (one-week

Contributors: Phil Shaw, Nick Harris, Paul Newman Readers' contributions welcome. Send to Sidelines, Sports Desk, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Whart, London E14 5DL

Harron happy with his change of fortune

nure as manager of Blackburn ended a year ago on Wednesday. Now in charge of West Brom, he enjoying his side's confident start to the season as the anniversary approaches.

He talked to Adam Szreter about unhappy endings and bright new beginnings.

For someone who has supposedly failed at the highest level. Ray Harford still cuts an imposing figure. He possesses a certain style and quality that, in footballing terms at least, have stamp of the Premier League. But First Division West Bromwich Albion are benefiting from the former Blackburn manager's expertise at the moment, to such an extent that victory at Portsmouth today could put the Baggies second in the table.

At a time when Albion were floundering around after the shock of dropping outside the top two divisions for the first time in their history, Harford was engaged in what he now describes as "a wonderful five-year adventure" with Blackburn Rovers, whom he joined as first-team coach and left as anager exactly one year ago next Wednesday.

It was a sad farewell for al-

most all concerned, "It was my decision," Harford said earlier this week, on the eye of West Brom's Cuca-Cola Cup thirdround tie against Liverpool. "The directors and the club didn't want me to go, the players didn't want me to go, but the fans did. And the biggest problem we had was with the new supporters."

Those "new supporters" had been lured to Ewood Park by Jack Walker's million-pound side and the appointment of Kenny Dalglish, and when Dalglish suddenly vacated the manager's chair to move "upstairs" after winning the title, the coach stepped into the limelight. But failure in the Champions' League was followed by disaster in the Premier League, and pretty soon Harford's days were numbered.

"The fans that had been there all the way with us were still very grateful to be playing the Liverpools and Man Uniteds," he said. "But the ones who joined the bandwagon when we were only successful, they couldn't handle it when we got beaten. And there was always going to be a reaction to winning the League. The year after Leeds won the League they nearly got relegated, and I was very aware of that.

"I'm of the opinion that I didn't do such a bad job considering we finished seventh in that first year," Harford added. "All right, we had a poor European Cup, but last season, after losing Alan Shearer and



Footballing realist: 'I was amazed by the support here,' Ray Harford says. 'But if we get to the play-offs it would be a miracle'

Photograph: Empics

having horrendous injuries, we I was a Third or Fourth Divigot 10 matches in and hadn't won a game, and I cared too much for the club not to fall on

my sword, as someone put it." Many believed that, with Dalglish still hovering in the background, Harford's task was made unnecessarily difficult. "It wasn't the position between me and him, but Kenny was a hard act to follow," Harford admitted, "and being around the place, he still had that presence.

"There was never any disagreement between us. We were brilliant together, as good as there was. He taught me things and I taught him things. He was a world-class player and

sion player, but we were both inquisitive and always wanted to improve.

"But him being around all the time when I became manager was just one of those situations that didn't work. He said to me that he'd do the same things for me as I'd done for him when he was manager. but he just couldn't. "Anyway, Blackburn's gone

now and it's out of my system. We played there pre-season, they're great people, they have a wonderful chairman and I've had some nice letters from supporters. They realise what happened was the best thing for the

club, but it wasn't a slight on me. They needed a change, and one or two people needed a rocket up their arse. Tony [Parkes] took it on and did a good job."

After a three-month break, Harford was installed as Albion manager, but two weeks earlier Dalglish had taken over at Newcastle. Had Harford been approached by his old boss? "If I was, you wouldn't know about it." he said.

"But I still wanted to test my wits as a No 1, and I'm enjoying it. I'm doing a lot more coaching than I did at Blackburn because I thought I had to distance myself. I was getting

"This is the first job I've come to from the outside. With all the other jobs I was promoted from within and it's an impossible situation. But I've done the same things here as 1 did at Blackburn, Wimbledon and Luton. I've tried to get them organised, used to winning consistently and being hard to beat. The players have reacted fantastically and it was probably the best pre-season

"When I arrived I was amazed by the support here, so many satellite fan clubs all over Europe, even the world. That and the tradition were the things that hit me. It's some-

I've ever had at any club.

thing to cling hold of. But if we get to the play-offs I think it would be a miracle. It may

sound a bit unambitious on my

part, but I think it's realistic." Harford still lives in the Home Counties and has stalled over signing a contract at The Hawthorns, inevitably leading to speculation that he is less than fully committed. But Harford rejects the accusation, knowing that as long as West Brom are pushing to reclaim their rightful place among the élite he can more or less please himself. One way or another, it will be no surprise if Ray Harford is back in the Premier League before too long.

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL

Heat is on for

Hearts to deliver

MAJOR WEEKEND **FIXTURES AND** POOLS CHECK

Today

(3.0 unless stated) FA Carling Premiership A ston Visa v Wimbledon
2 Blackburn v Southampton
3 Chelsea v Lecester
4 Crystal Paloce v Arsenal
5 Derby v Manchester Utd
6 Everton v Liverpool
7 Leeds v Newcastle

Nationwide Football League First Division

Designe First Division

10 Crawe v Middesbrough

11 Manchester City v Reading

12 Norwich v Stockport

13 Notim Forest v Travmere

14 Oxford Utd v Ipsavich

16 Portsmouth v Westford City

16 Portsmouth v Westford City

Second Division

20 Blackpool v Gormsby ... 21 Bournemouth v Fulham 22 Brentfood v Walsall ... 23 Northan v Oresterfield 24 Oldham v Chesterfield 25 Plymouth v Southend 26 Wotland v Mahvalt

Third Division

Bell's Scottish League Premier Division

First Division 45 Ardine v Hamilton......... 45 Falkrik v Greenock Morton

48 St Marten v Ayr ... 49 Starling v Dundet Second Division - Brechin v East Fife - Invertiess CT v Clydeban

Livingston v Forter

Queen of the South v Clyde.
Stranvaer v Stenhousemuir... Third Division Albion Rovers v East Strling Alica v Queen's Park Cowdenbeath v Arbroath

FA Carling Premiership Nationwide Football League First Division - Charlton v Stoke (10)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

McGhee surviving on borrowed time and players

The respective fortunes of Mark McGhee and Graham Taylor make grim reading for are to receive second-placed Swindon today.

When the Molineux crowd turned on Taylor two years ago. the agony was not prolonged the way it had been during the final months of Graham Turner's tenure. No longer sure of the board's backing, the former England manager felt forced to resign, allowing Wolves to woo McGhee from Leicester.

to Watford's delight, not for long. A headline which gloat-Sir Jack Hayward as a Wolver- ed "He'll never work in this hampton Wanderers side lying country again", while not as in- ed by McGhee, Reading. 15th in the First Division pre- stantly memorable as the famore determined to succeed in his second spell at Vicarage Road, where he stepped up from the general manager's role to the frontline again this

Although too urbane and generous a spirit to show satisfaction at the travails of oth-

Taylor retired hurt, though turned out. Wolves have taken two points from the last 12 and slid out of the Coca-Cola Cup in midweek to another club jilt-The Scot's honcymoon with

mous "turnip" jibe, made him a restless support ended long ago. Many, indeed, expected the divorce to have gone through by now. While acknowledging that Wolves have had appalling luck with injuries. Sir Jack wants to see results before funding further spending.

Hence the loan signing of ers, Taylor could be excused a the 23-year-old Crystal Palace Town and Gillingham, also wry smile at how things have striker Dougie Freedman, who

plays today. He will complete his transfer on Monday, with Kevin Muscat also arriving at Molineux in exchange for Jamie Smith. In contrast, Taylor's team are

five points clear in the Second Division. Watford drew nearly 14,000 spectators for the last home match; a mundane looking affair with York, and anticipate at least as many for the visits of third-placed Millwall today and Kevin Keegan's Fulham on Tuesday. The other half of the top four, Northampton

if they beat Tranmere and Wolves ease the pressure on McGhee. But the division's Sheffield United, whose Coca-Cola Cup defeat at Walsali was their first since the play-off final at Wembley, against a Queen's Park Rangers outfit

go four points clear in the First

who still flatter to deceive. Paul Merson, who was with England in Rome's Olympic Stadium a week ago, will step out in the spartan surrounds of Gresty Road as Middlesbrough adrift if they lose again. play Crewe for the first time.

Nottingham Forest could Dario Gradi hoped to have a £750,000 defender to mark the £5m man, only for Shrewsbury's Dave Walton to thwart his uncharacteristic spending plans heavyweight encounter pits by rejecting personal terms. Talking of money, spare a

thought for Boro's hard-up neighbours Darlington, who face Doncaster at Feethams in the Third Division's first sixpointer of the season. The bottom two have a solitary win between them from 22 games, and Doncaster, if anything even worse off, could be seven points

ume on Celtic and keep his side at the top of the table. The most eagerly awaited

match of the season so far pits Jefferies' men against Wim Jansen's resurgent Celtic in front of a sell-out Edinburgh crowd.

Jim Jefferies, the Hearts man-

ager, has urged the fans at

Typecastle to turn up the vol-

With three points dividing the two sides and Rangers also hard on their heels at the top of the Premier League, Hearts face a first big test of their championship credentials.

A redeveloped Typecastle will be hosting only its second home game after the opening of the new Gorgie Road stand.

"The stadium's looking great, and it should be a cracking atmosphere on Saturday," he said. "We know it will be a full house and that there will be 5,000 Celtic supporters here but we will still have the bulk of the fans.

"We know how intimidating it can be going to Parkhead in front of 50,000, and I'm hoping our fans will give us their full backing and create a similar atmosphere for them.

Hearts are hoping their inform Scotland defender David Weir recovers from a gash above his eye that required four stitches after training yesterday, while Celtic's Danish midfielder Morten Wieghorst is still doubtful, as they seek to extend an 11-match unbeaten run.

Midweek goal-scoring hero Craig Burley is anticipating a tough examination, after securing a Coca-Cola Cup final date with Dundee United.

"It's a big test for us, and we will need to produce another battling performance to get any kind of result," he said.

Rangers are expected to welcome back Richard Gough against Dunfermline, the beaten Cup semi-finalists, at Ibrox after completing his return move from American side

Kansas City Wizards this week. The other losing semi-finalists, Aberdeen, host Hibergian at Pittodrie, knowing another defeat could push manager Roy Aitken closer to the sack, while their conquerors Dundee United are also searching for a first league win at home to Motherwell.

Republic welcome back veteran trio

Denis Irwin, Steve Staunton and Andy Townsend have all been recalled to the Republic of Ireland squad for the first Jeg of the World Cup play-off game against Belgium at Lansdowne Road on 15 November.

Irwin and Staunton were omitted from the squad for the final Group Eight game against Romania in Dublin last Saturday because of the fear of picking up another yellow card. The game out because of a cracked rib

ended 1-1. Andy Townsend, the Republic skipper, missed that game because of a knee injury, but proved his fitness in Middiesbrough's win over Sunderland on Wednesday.

Left out on this occasion by the Republic's manager, Mick McCarthy, are Spurs' Stephen Carr, Everton's Gareth Farrelly and Tranmere's Liam O'Brien. Liverpool's Phil Babb misses

picked up in a training session with his club earlier this week. McCarthy admitted that Ja-

son McAteer had not played as well as he had hoped in the Romanian came. "All the transfer talk didn't help him. I want Jason to be single-minded about this game and not to be thinking about where he or anyone else might be in a few months time," McCarthy said.

The 22-man Irish squad will

assemble in Dublin next Friday and there will be no releases of players to any English Premiership or First Division clubs for Saturday games.

ROY SALULUAY SALULUS.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (squart to play Belgum in first leg of World Cup play-oft, Lansdowne Road, Dublin, 29 October): Gilven (Neucaste). A Keily (Sheft Uni); G Keily (Leeds), Cunningham (Winoledon), Harte (Leeds), Brean (Coventry), Kanna (Blackburn), Irwin (Manchester Uni), Pholian (Sterlon), Florifing (Middlesbrough), Townsend (Middlesbrough), Townsend (Middlesbrough), Standay (Middlesbrough), Townsend

Rivaldo will start tonight's game as league leaders but Spanish league game at Compostela knowing that he has not only Barcelona's 100 per cent record to defend but also a point to prove.

Rivaldo's burden of proof

The match comes a year after his fellow Brazilian Ronaldo, the man he was signed to replace, scored an extraordinary individual goal against Compostela, which captured the imagination in Spain. As last year, Barcelona go into the still seeking to prove they have replaced Ronaldo adequately

The £17m acquisition of Rivaldo from Deportivo La Coruña, who have slumped since his departure, should have impressed the fans. But they are not yet convinced of the side's quality, even though the Brazilian's superb close skills on the left have helped them to open a four-point gap lead in only six matches.

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

TODAY

cambe, Taitord v Fambocought, Woking v LeesYsovil v Northwich:
STHMMAN LEAGUE Premier Division:
Bishop's Stortford v Chesham: Borelsun
Wood v Purflaset Enfair v Heybridge; St Albors v Degenham & Rechridge; Sutton Utd
v Yseding, First Division: Barion Rovers v
Worthing, Second Division: Barnstead Africate v Cheshunt; Brocknell Town v Horsham;
Braintee Town v Martow; Carwey Island v
Windsor & Eton; Chelford St Peter v Wivenhoe Town; Hungerford Town v Northwood;
Met Police v Beathor! Town; Thury V Edguers
Town; Tooling & Mitcham v Leighton Items;
Wealdstone v Barking; Witham: Town v
Egham Town. Third Division: Caption v Aveley; Dorking v Homchurch; Factwell Heath
v Coydon Athletic Ford Lid v Epsom & Evel;
Hemel Hempstad v Camberley Town; Hertford Town v Harlow Town; Kingsbury Town v
Cortichian Casuals; Southell v East Thurnock
Utl; Ware v Tring Town; Wingsia & Finchiey
v Lewes.

Unity Ware v Ining rown, vergas of the comv Lawes.

UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division:
Bentier Bridge v Gainsborrough; Byth Spertense v Accington Starley; Boston Utd v Lancaster, Chorley v Alarine; Bridge Lancaster, Chorley v Alarine; Hyde Utd v Barcov; Ruscon v Bleidop Auckland. First Divisions: Bradford PA v Ashton Utd; Harrogets
Town v Workington.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division:
Bronsgrové v Burton Abbon: Gloubestar
City v Dorchester, Merthyr v Kings Lynn;
funeston v Portest Green; Saltsbury v Hastings: Sittingbourne v Grestay Rovers; St
Leonards v Bash, Middand Division: Stour-

bridge v Granthem Town, Southern Division: Cheimstord City v Bashley: Crencester Town v Dantord.

era.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Lymington v
Romssy Town; BAT v Newbury; Bemerion
Heath v Andover; Chrischurch v Thetchem
Textr: Covers Sports v Alc Tottor; Sext Covers
Vice v Gosport Borough; Eastleigh v
Boumernouth; Portemouth; RN v Dowmon;
Ryde Sports v Brockenhurst; Wimborns
Town v Whitchurch Utd.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Amthorpe Weitare v Brigg NOMETHERN COUNTRES & AST LEAGUE Premier Division: Armitrorpe Weltare v Brigg Town: Denaby United v Haffield Main; Huck-rall Town v Ossett Town: Liversedge v Hal-lem; North Ferrby United v Glasshoughton -Weltare; Gesett Albori v Protecting Town: Pon-tefract v Arnold Town: Selby Town v Mahiby; Sheffield v Eocleahil Utd; Trackley v Curzon Advison

SURRIWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier drivisions Barnstaple Town v Paulton Rovers, Chipperferm Town v Metisham Town v Rumon Town v Chard Town; Tiverton Town v Bridport Lea Phillips Carp; Bishop Sutton v Devices Town; Bridpeater To v Torrington; Elmore v Pewsey Vela. Keynstam Town v Caine Town; Mangotafield v Backweil Und;

Imageion v Starrottous.

UNALET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Arunds v Saziosen Utd: Burgess Hill Town v Horstern YMCA: Eastbourne town v Chichester Cky, Peacetheren 8 Telschmibe v Ringmer, Portfield v Mile Daic; Rednill v Hassham Town; Whitehawk v Hassocks.

Near County.

Sentinoff RIISH LEAGUE Premier Divi-sion: Câfonnile v Bellymenz; Coleraine v Glenioran; Crusaders v Portadown; Gle-newon v Omegh; Liftield v Ards. SAIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE First Division: Bangor v Distillery; Carrick v Ballyclare; U-mavady v Lame; Newry v Dungarmon Swifts. LEAGUE OF WALES: Cwmbran v Corwy FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE Pre-mier Division: Derry City v Dundelk (730; Klikenny City v Finn Harps (730); SI Patricka

Rugby Union ALLED UNIBAR Premiership One: Bath
v Bristol; Northernston v Lecester; Achmond
v Harlequins (2:5); Sale v Newcastie, Premiership Ture: Berlford v West Hardspoot;
Blockheath v Mosaley; Exster v London Scottisk; Ornel v Coventry: Rotherham v Waterloo, Wakerfield v Fydo.

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE One: Har-JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE One: Harrogale v Worcester, Leads Nottingram; London Weish v Rugby (2A5); Morley v Reading; Ottey v Newbury; Rosalyn Park v Lydney; Wharlfadie v Liverpool St Heisena. Two Northe Hinckley v Sheffteld; Ludtillald v Sandat; Numeaton v Aspainar; Preston Grasshoppers v Marchester; Sadgley Park v Kandat; Stourbridge v Birmingham/Sothult; Winningham Park v Walsalat Two South; Bridgweizer v Ciffon; Chelterham v Plymouth; Esher v Met Police; Honley v Barlong; North Walsham v Hewart; Redruth v Camberley; Weston-S-Mare v Tabard.

Washam v Hevars; Rodrum v Carronevy; Washam S-Mare v Rebard.
WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Division: Bridgerd v Cardif (20); Ebbw Vale v Neuport (20); Portypridd v Lanelli (60); Swansen v Naeth (20). First Division: Backwood v Dunvert (20); Benymaen v Nerthyr (20); Cardiff Inst) (20); Landovery v Newtholg (20); Fortypod v Messieg (20); Rummeyv Reporty (20); South Wales Police v Abertilery (20).
SRU LEAGUE TROPHY Group A: Gala v Edriburgh Acads: Gizsgow Hevics v Masselburgh; Heriots FP v Neirose; Kirkceldy Curfe; Preston Lodge v Hasrick Group B: Bigger v Jed-Forest; Kelso v Weltsonians; Kimmoro V String County; Peebbe v Dunder HSFP; West of Spottand v Boroughmuir. Group C: Glarothes v Aberdeen GSFP: Grangemouth v Gordonians. Group D: Glassjow Southern v Selfork; Stewartry v Hill-head/JordanNil.
CLUB MATCHES: Cambridge Unive Bristol

PIOCKEY
MATIONAL LEAGUE First Division: Chainsford v Isca (Lip); Hampstead & Wastminster
v Bournelle (230); Harleston Magnes v
Bournelle (230); Harleston Magnes v
Goucester Coty (Lip); Haward v Oxford Hawks
(230); Indian Gymrinans v Hull (130), Lewes
v Blueharts (130); Loughborrouch Students
v Bueharts (130; Loughborrouch Students
v Bourney (230); Oxford university v Setfield
((23); St Albarts v Brooklands ((D); Surbton
v Sournott Rit Waterindron v Ferbicarts (130). y Stourport (10); Warrington y Firebrands (130). PSI. SOUTH Premier. Anchoriers v Eastcoer. Beckenham v Remognitis: City of Portsmouth v Lubridge Wells, Faishem + High Wycombe. Gore Court v Chichester, Herne Bay v Wok-ing: Madenhead v Bournemouth: Purley v Pid Whogittans, Richmond v Wimbledon; Win-chester v Tingans.

Hockey

ADNAMS EAST Premier: Bishops Stortford v Cambridge university: Cambridge City v Clacion: Crostyx v Surbury; Ipswch v Luton Town; Peterborough Town v Colchester Town; Peterborough Town v Cochesies;
NORTH Premier: Durbam university v Neston; Formby v Nemogate; Shot field Bankers v Chester: Southport v Timperley; Swathwell v Ben Phydding; Wigan v Norton.
WEST OF ENGLAND & SOUTH WALES
Premier: Bath Buccs v Swarsea; Exster university v Clevedon; Potinsons v Pristol university; Taumton Vale v Cheltenham;
Weston-super-Norra v Whitchurch
WOMEN'S FAST Premier: Astrond v Bury WOMEN'S EAST Premier: Ashford v Bury St Edmunds; Cambridge City v Harleston Magnies; Ipswich v Welwyn Garden City: St Albane v Dereham.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby Storm v Thomas Valor Tions (730): Newcastle Ea-Themes Valley Tigers (730); Nowcastle Ea-gles v ITT L&E Wenting Bears (730); Wat-ford Royals v Chester Jets (730).

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP: Basingstoke v Newcastle (50); Manchester v Brachnell (70); Nothingham v Ayr (630); Cardiff v Sheffield (630).

Speedway CRAVEN SHIELD Semi-final first leg: Swn-don (Coventry, 7.30) INDIVIDUAL: Pride of the East (Kings Lynn, 730): Karl Friar Memonal Trophy (Berwick, 630). YOUNG SHIELD, somi-final: Arena Essex v Edinburgh (80). (Provisional). RESERVED: Bradford (730): Coventry (730)

TENNIS: LTA Women's Challenger GOLF: Altred Dunhal Cup (St Andrews).

TOMORROW Football

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Division: Cork City v UCD (20). FAI NATIONAL LEAGUE CUP Quarter-fi-nal: Bray Wanderers v Sigo Rovers (3.15).

SRU INTER DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP: Glasgow v Edinburgh (at Scotstoun, Glasgow, 3.30) ALLIED DUNBAR Premiership One: Gloucester v London Irsh (315); Wasps v Saracens (30).

NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier: Cannock v Hourslow (230): Doncaster v East Grinstead (20): Old Loughtoners v Eastlon (130): Read-ing the Canter of Tigers (20): Southgate v Can-terbury (20): Technique v Guidford (Lensbury Calo 230).

EHA MEN'S CUP second round: Becken-

v Astrond (Midde): Fareham v Yeovil & Sherborne; Prebrands v Hampeteed & Westminster: Gloucester City v Epsom; Hartsome v Sheffield; Harfeston Maggies v Dereham; Hamogate v Whiteleven; High Wycombe v Mid Sussec; Hulf v Norton; Indian Gymffenna v Crifort Hawks; Ipowich v John Payer; Isoa v Llons; Janey v Robunsons; Laleaster Thursday v Hempton in Anden; Lewes v Subton; Loughborough Students v Brooklands; Loughborough Students v Brooklands; Loughborough Town v De Monstort university; Middleton & Bognor v Chichester; Neston v York; Old Carallaghens v PhC Chiewick; Old Georgians v City of Ortord; Chiewick; Old Georgians v City of Ortord; Otton & West Warwick v Cambridge City; Peterborough Town v Timperiey; Hamgerhia (Leeda) v Formby; Southport v Warmigton; Spalding v North Seiffe; St Albans v Clactor, Trojens v Old Mid-Whitgiftens; Turbridge Wells v Chelmsford; West Hier b v Bishops Sonftord; West Wilse v Bournemourit; Winchesier v Herne Eäy.

Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester Jets v addas Greater London Leopards (520); Converse Crystal Palace v Warland Royals (60); Sheffield Sharks v Leicester Riders (630).

ice hockey SUPERLEAGUE: Manchester v Ayr (60); Bracknet v Basingstoke (60).

INTERNATIONAL Third Test Englandy Australia (Eastbourne, 330).

Other sports TENNIS: LTA Women's Challenger GOLF: Alfred Dunhili Cup (St Andrews).

Football

COCUSAIN

3.0 unless stated

GM VALID-GALL CONFERENCE: Dover v
Stalybridge; Galastread v Chetanham; Hallax v Shawfarge; Hofferstord v Welfing; Hareford v Southport; Kettering v Hayes;
Kidderminster v Rushdan; Shugh v Morifcamba; Talford v Barrborough; Wolding v Leek
Vsovil v Northwich.

Chemistord City v Bashley: Cristicester Town v Dentrord.

PA United TROPHY First Qualitying Round: Sastford Ranges v Hindridy Usc Bustion v Alfreton Town: Bedworth Und v Stocisbridge Park Streets: Softmal Borough v Shepshed Dynamo; Lincoh Utd v Taslord; Remworth v Congleton Town; Witton Albon v Fersley Cellic; Eastwood Town v Reddich Utd; Balteriell v Spernymor Utd; Balteriell v Spernymor Utd; Beber Rown v Droylecter; Whistord Utd v Bestor Town; Flatton v Method: Town; Netherfield v Whitely Town; Flatton v Method: Town; Netherfield v Whitely Town; Flatton v Method: Town; Whitely Say v Worksop Town; Whitely v Gravesend & Northfield Whyleted v Mergate; Corby Town v Newport AFC; Yete Town v Method; Roylor v Newport (IOW); Christic Corbing v Hendon; Trowbridge Town v Reunds Town; Hersent Town v Hendon; Trowbridge Town; Hersent Town v Hendon; Trowbridge Town; Aldershot Town v Croydon; Weigefloodile v Fisher Athletic; Cranfey Town; Series Athletic; Cranfey Town; Vingsoner; Braddey Town v Worcaster City; v Kingsoner; Braddey Town v Worcaster City; v Chronicy Cown v Weigefloodile v Fisher Athletic; Cranfey Town v Beston V Cowdon; Leyton Perment v Baldock Town; Leather-head; Leyton Perment v Baldock Town; Parching City v Machenhead Utd; Wisbech Town, Udordige v Weymouth; Fareham Town; V Wilney Town Town v Witney Town.

INTERLINK EXPRIESS Middand Alliance.
Bloxwich Town v Stratford Town; Boldmers
SI Michaels v Pershore Rown; Bridgnorth Rown
v Wilenhall Town; Chessiown v Stapenhill;
Halesowen Harriers v Plocester, Kings Norton Town v Peisea Vige; Knypersiey Victoria.
v Pushall Olympic; Oldbury Und v West Midtends Police; Shifter Town v Barwelt; Wednesfield v Sandwell Borough
alevison EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Di-

JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Di-

visions Bury Town v Gorleston: Fakenham Town v Stowmerket Town; Februtine Port & Town v By City, Great Varmouth Town v Har-wich & Perkeston; Haistead Town v Lowest-oft Town; Histon v Watton Utu; Sudbury Town v Diss Town; Tiptree Utd v Schem; Wartbys Clacton Town; Woodbridge Town v New-market Town; Wrodaem v Sudbury Wander-

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE Langue Cup: Atherton LR v Warrington Town; Burscough v Telley Walver, Cheele Town v Preticot Cables; Cliffneroe v Bacup Borough; Darwin v Glossop North End; Formby v Capitelin Gabriels; Kisgrove Atherton Colleries; Middlewich Athletic v Netson; Mossiey v Chadderton; Narntwich Town v Magdyut, Nawcaste Town v Hestingden; Ramsbottom Utd v Blackpool Povers; Skeimersdete Utd v St Hestry Town; Manachell CM v Fleetwood Fresport.

SCREWED DIRECT LEAGUE Premier OL

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE borough; Wootton v St Neots, League Cup: Thraceton v Shambrock

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First DI-WINSTONLEAD KENT LEASURE FIRST Unvision: Canterfury City v Faversham Town: Chatham Town: V-Hyrine Utd; Contribution v Ramsgate; Cray Wanderers v Backenham Town: Crockenhalt v VCO Athlete; Greenwich Borough v Whitstable Town; Herre Bay v Erith Town: Swankey Furneas v Folkestone Invicta; Thamesmeed Town v Sheppey Utd; Tunivirtia Walle v Deal Town. SCOTTISH QUALIFYING CUP (NORTH) Semi-Finals; Deveromele v Praserburgh Pe-HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora Rangers v Casiwacuckin; Fores Machanics v Fort William; Hursty v Rothes; Wick Academy v Naim County.

CLUB MATCHES: Cambridge Univ v Bristol University; Oxford University v Loughborough Students (2:30); Stewarts Mel FP v Ayr.

ice hockey

Basketball

Wise's fear of the law proves to be the beginning of wisdom



Dennis Wise: 'Zola, Vialli, Hughes, they're all legends, and I'm so lucky to be playing with them'

Photograph: Robert Hallam

When he was a member of the Crazy Gang Dennis Wise revelled in his image as a cheeky Cockney chappy who was always in the thick of the action. And he continued to live up to his wild reputation when he left Wimbledon for Cheisea.

Then a policeman inspired him to close the door on his wild side, and now he in the thick of the international class action on view these days down the Fulham Road. He is loving every minute of it.

Roud Gullit is lounging on a chair, Gianfranco Zola is looking at the food on offer for lunch at the Chelsea training ground, and Gianluca Vialli is showered, dressed, and waiting, somewhat

impatiently, for his friend to join him. Dennis Wise looks up to the shavenheaded Italian. "Baby, I'm busy," he says, with a mock accent. "I won't be long. OK?" Vialli gives an exaggerated, Latin shrug of his shoulders and sits down to wait for the club captain to finish talking to me.

"He's a legend," Wise says quietly, leaning over the table to ensure that Vialli doesn't hear him. "And he's such a perfectionist." At that moment Mark Hughes walks by, which sets Wise off again. "I can't believe Manchester United let him go, either. He's been phe-

If Wise sounds a little disbelieving at the position he finds himself in, then it is because he is. The 5ft 6in bundle of energy still can't quite work out how, week in, week out, he plies his trade alongside some of the biggest names in European football.

'Zola, Vialli, Hughes, they're all legends, and I'm so lucky to be playing with them all. It'll be nice when, later on, I have kids to tell them that I used to play with those guys. They probably won't believe me, so I'll have to show them a video." Maybe, I suggest, Zola will tell his children he once played with Dennis Wise? He laughs. "No, I don't think so."

The facts, however, tell a different story. Throughout the season so far the Chelsea manager, Ruud Gullit, has operated a squad system, which has seen the big names in and out of the team, willy-nilly. All, that is, except Wise who, up until his current, three-match League suspension, played each week, despite the fact that the press reported, only last season, how he and Gullit were at loggerheads.

"I couldn't understand why I'd been opped," he explains, "Rund said that my English mentality was different from the Italian mentality he was introducing to the club. When English players get dropped they tend to sulk, like I did, but the Italians are so relaxed. Once it's been explained to them, they accept the manager's decision.

Rund outlined to me, and to the others, that to win anything in football these days, you must use 20 players, not 11. Everyone now accepts that we won't be playing in every game. I know I have been up to now, but I understand that I'm bound to be dropped on some occasions

Maybe, but his form has been so consistently good all season that, despite Eng-

land's continuing success, a powerful lobby has been pushing hard for Wise's inclusion to add to his 13 international caps. As for Wise, he does not really know what else he can do. "Everyone keeps saying I should be at least in the England squad, but it means nothing to me unless I am.

"I watched the match against Italy like everyone else and, of course, I'm delighted we've made it to the World Cup. I've now got to make sure that I do as well. I'm playing at my best right now, and have been since the start of the season, so if Glenn won't pick me now, I can't see how he will in the future. I suppose I've just got to carry on, and if Chelsea have a successful season it can only help my cause."

Wise has actually helped his own cause most of all. His career, up until recently, has been anything but quiet. As a Wimbledon player it was his free-kick that set up Lawrie Sanchez to head home the only goal in the 1988 FA Cup final against Liverpool. "He wasn't supposed to be even in the box," Wise recalls. "It was supposed to be Alan Cork. To this day I don't know why they swapped."

A £1.6m move to Chelsea followed in 1990, but for most of his time in football he has attracted the wrong kind of headlines, culminating in his infamous fracas with a London taxi driver that saw him convicted of assault and causing criminal damage.

In March, 1995, he was sentenced to three months in prison. He ended up

BY IAN **STAFFORD**

spending just two hours inside a cell, before he was released on bail pending an appeal which, three months later, saw him acquitted. But those two hours proved to be the turning point in Wise's career and, indeed, life.

"My whole attitude to life has changed, and it's all down to the incident with the taxi driver, and the consequences," he says, quite prepared to discuss the sorry subject. "Going to prison is an experience I am never going to forget.

"I remember walking to my cell with a prison officer and I asked him if I could sit outside. I just couldn't get it into my head at all. He said, 'No, you're in custody.' I asked him again, and he refused. Then he shut the door on me."

Wise had nothing to do except sit down on a small bed and look at the four walls that surrounded him. "It was very frightening. I sat down and wondered how on earth I had ended up there. Then I started to look at myself, and to think

"Believe me, two hours is more than enough to sort yourself out. I realised how much I loved playing football, but how I shouldn't take it for granted. It gave me a huge kick up the backside. I

clearly needed it." He blows his cheeks out and, for a moment, the cheeky chappy grin deserts him. "I've mellowed a lot since that experience, I can tell you, both on and off the pitch. In a funny sort of way I'm glad it happened to me. It's put me in good stead, both for now, and for the future, when my career's over. And it's made me really enjoy my football."

He looks around the training ground refectory at his team-mates. "You can't help but look good when you're playing with them," he adds. "I just love playing for this club. It's not about the money, or the fame, or anything else except the football. If I wasn't a professional footballer, I'd still be out playing the game on some park every Sunday

The new Dennis Wise happily coincided with the new-look Chelsea, courtesy of first Glenn Hoddle, and then Gullit. "When I came here Chelsea were a sleeping giant. Not much changed for the first few years. We remained a midtable side. Then Glenn arrived, and he inserted a lot of discipline and professionalism to the club. Even little things. like introducing the canteen, and laying down carpets downstairs helped. It made us feel special. And, of course, he signed Ruud.

"I'm in my eighth season here now, and we've only just won something. The sleeping giant's just woken up, and I'm hoping it's the start of great things to come. Certainly, lifting the FA Cup last year was my greatest moment."

What was that like? Wise's eyes light up. "It's the most wonderful feeling possible," he answers. "When I was handed the cup, I just waited a split second and looked completely around the stadium first before lifting it up above my head. It gave me such a buzz. Being ser ond up the steps for Wimbledon was good, but raising the cup for Chelsea was

Does he miss those rather wild days at Wimbledon? "Nope, not at all. They were great days, of course. Nobody was on big money, but we enjoyed the crack by upsetting all the odds. But we were always the underdog and I always wanted to move because they would never. reach a higher level. My ambition was always to play for a big London club. That's why I was never going to stay there."

Now he is playing for a big London club that shares his ambitions. "I want to win the League, the Cup-Winners' Cup, and get my place back in the England team," Wise said. "And I'm play-, ing for the right club to do all of this.

He looks across at Vialli again. "You know, reputations don't count for much here, either. We all have a great laugh. When Italy beat us at Wembley, Zola and Di Matteo turned up for the next training wearing their Italian shirts. They then made a point of jogging round the pitch taking the mickey out of us all.

"Well, this time we got our own back. We've put loads of messages up in the dressing-room, like "We're off to France," and "Italy are Crap." The guys had a laugh with us. That's what it's like here."

As Wise made his way off to the Motor Show with Vialli, I told him that he must have changed if, during the well documented fracas last month in the Old Trafford tunnel between Manchester United and Chelsea players, he was acting as peacemaker.

I added that the thought of Dennis Wise upholding the peace was akin to Oliver Reed complaining about a rowdy drunk. He takes my point. "Yeah, well it can happen sometimes in the game. But I know what you mean. I thought to myself: 'What am I doing?' "

Would he have tried to cool things down a few years ago? The cheeky grin appears. "No," he said. "Probably not. I would have been in the thick of it."

Swans still waiting for a saviour

FAN'S EYE VIEW

No 228 **SWANSEA** ANDREW CLEMES

Popular myth has it that the Welsh as a race are pessimistic in outlook. The supporters of Swansea City have more justification than most to harbour doubts and fears about their future. Even our newly appointed chief executive felt we must be the most long-suffering fans in the League and a glance at Swansca's immediate past shows how right he was.

A huge sigh of relief swept across the Vetch in August when the reign of the Sharpe family ended and an eager group of new directors took over. The relief was twofold as a previous takeover had collapsed and the club has a existed hand-to-mouth for crumb of comfort has been the have we done to deserve this?

many years. In contrast to the form of one of the new signdead hand of the Sharpe years ings. Tony Bird, who, in fairwe were thrilled to hear of ness, has done what no Swans money for new players, a new striker has since the glory stadium and a top to bottom days of Bob Latchford and review of the club. This review made the "highest scorer" was to be from the petrol in rankings in the Sunday papers. the groundsman's mower to the manager himself.

To say that Jan Molby was the idol of the North Bank was an understatement. He had not only almost achieved the impossible and saved us from relegation in 1995 but had taken the Swans to Wembley and to within a whisker of promotion in the play-off final. This was exciting (if heartbreaking) stuff. Optimism was high for the new season although then the "imminent" takeover seemed as far off as Welsh rugby's next golden era. In the meantime the vital organs of the 1996-97 team were transplanted to Wat-

ford. Northampton and, most painfully of all, Cardiff, It will all be different under the new regime we assured ourselves - no more assetstripping. On its first day in charge the new board promptly sold striker Steve Torpev to Bristol City for £400,000 and bought two League of Wales players for £60,000. The crumbling ground, having peared once since. The only of the Pet Shop Boys, what

The fans' suffering was increased with a home defeat to Barry Town in the Welsh Cup and the inevitable sacking of Molby. In one fell swoop the Swans lost their best manager since John Toshack and one of the classiest midfielders outside the Premiership. Saviours have come and gone, and once we even had six all in one season. yet hoped the Great Dane would be with us forever.

As if by magic a new redeemer appears within 24 hours of the "unplanned" sacking of Jan the Man. The unfortunate man is Micky Adams - rejected by Fulham and promising to do for Swansea what he did at Craven Cottage.

If he does that then, fickle bunch that we are, we will revere him and the loss of Molby will be a distant memory. We are still tantalised by blueprints of our new stadium and talk of yet more players if Adams wants them.

Being Welsh and pessimistic we wait patiently cheque book has only ap- while wondering, in the words

How Kenny was persuaded that it's good to talk

Cesare Maldini had a bad late Buttons, and even had week thanks to Glenn Hoddle. but the England manager didn't exactly do much for the mood at Nestlé, either. They must have been high-fiving after England's Roman victory given that the popularity rating of the man currently endorsing their cereal matched that of Tony Blair's - until news of the collapse of Hoddle's marriage

soured the celebrations. Problem was, the advert for Shredded Wheat played on Hoddle's image as a family man, and Nestlé have understandably pulled the ad, which cost them at least film more than Brian Little is reportedly prepared to fork out for Gazza. But it's no good crying over spilt milk; Nestlé will probably look for a replacement whose image fits their bill, and chances

are they'll look within the game. Three years BH (Before Hoddle) they paid Jack Charlton to try and convince the watching millions that he was taking a suitcase of Shredded Wheat out to USA 94, while Old Big 'Ead himself was their icon during the 1970s, in the days when his opinion still mattered.

Back then only a handful of

crack the odd one-liner. He plugged the alcohol-free lager Barbican in an ad which was so bad it must have driven tee totals to drink, while Kevin Keegan stripped to the waist in a boxing ring with Henry Cooper to enthuse about "splashing ON WHY it all over"; Brut 33, that is. Nowadays, of course, things are somewhat different, with or Alan, Ryan or Gary - popping up on our screens during ad breaks. Or even Scott. For

Bryan Robson starring (badly)

alongside him in a cereal ad.

Lawrie McMenemy was an-

other - on the strength of one

FA Cup win and the ability to

those with short memories, the star of the 1994 Medonald's ad was the then 13-year-old Scott Parker, who had to play keepyuppy for six hours while the ad was filmed; it obviously didn't do his balls skills any harm because he made his Charlton first-team debut this season.

Parker says he was paid "not millions, not even thousands" for the role; the big stars can command anything up to £100,000, unless the endorsement is written into their confootballers suited the ad men's tract. But money, apparently, is spec. Clough was one; he not really the point. The point, Arsenal's midfield have been,



BLAIR

FOOTBALLERS AND AD MEN any old Tom, Dick or Harry - MAKE STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

> Productions and the creative brains behind the Littlewoods ads, is that "advertising reflects what's 'happening' in the world, and football is 'happening' ". He says we can expect to see an increasing number of footballers plugging anything from insurance (Ron Atkinson) to cars (David Ginola) as the build-up to France 98 gathers momentum.

It doesn't seem to matter that they can't act. David Platt's performances for Tic Tacs, and later for Mcdonald's, were as unconvincing as his displays in plugged everything from East according to Chris Palmer, ad- while Alan Shearer lacks a must be exceptions. Geny Fran-Midlands Electricity to Choco- vertising director of Gorgeous certain sparkle in the current cis and Howard Kendall can't watch this space.

ad for Lucozade Sport. Palmer even sell the likes of Justin Edadmits Shearer is "no Lawrence Olivier, but he works round that". Apparently.

Nor does it seem to matter that star and product are as compatible as Tomas Brolin and George Graham. OK, so Ryan Giggs wears Reebok boots, but I doubt he uses an Acclaim computer or drives a Citroën, and you can bet your bottom dollar he doesn't go for a Quorn burger after training. And as for Terry Venables drinking Oasis fruit drink... something bubbly would be more apt. As usual, Nike's commer-

cials take some beating, even if the brilliant Parklife ad (featuring Cantona, Wright, Fowler and Seaman playing park football on Hackney Downs) did lose out to the WH Smith ad starring Nicholas Lyndhurst in the recent National Television Awards. Nike just do it better than the rest, although Gary Lineker did wonders for Walkers crisps, and Vinnie Jones has doubtless had a similar effect on the sales of, er. Vaseline In-

tensive Care deodorant. Palmer claims that he'd like football because its currently so commercially viable, but there

inburgh and Nick Barmby, let alone decent products.

But at least someone has finally persuaded Kenny Dalglish that it's good to talk. The Newcastle manager has succeeded Bob Hoskins and Maureen Lipman as British Telecom's latest star. Next thing you know, Ray Wilkins will been endorsing Vidal Sassoon products. Ray Parlour will be championing Clearasil and Barry Fry will be promoting savings schemes.

Of course things can change quickly in football - as Nike found after putting their millions behind Cantona before his infamous kung-fu kick - and there's always a danger that the actions of a player or manager can adversely affect the sales of the product they're endorsing.

But it's unlikely ever to be a problem for Scott Parker, whose potential has nothing to do with the fact that he once helped boost sales of Fillet-O-Fish. Parker may end up being a marketing man's dream, but only because, as those in the know at Charlton claim, he's "two-footed, attack-minded, to make an ad with "anyone" in supremely fit and the ultimate pro". In other words, he's got the proverbial world at his feet. So, as they say in ad speak,

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Derby day dynamics complicate sack race form guide

After disappointing Coca-Cola Cup exits in midweek, both Gerry Francis of Spurs and Everton's Howard Kendal need convincing performances from their sides as the Premiership returns.

Phil Show looks at the weekend ahead, while Nick Harris (below) analyses the programme match by match.

To reverse an old maxim, the cessor. Joe Royle, replaced a major factor behind the pur- Sunderland on 11 January, or kamp, will at least be among managerial sack race is a sprint, not a marathon. The odds against Howard Kendall or Gerry Francis making it to middle distance may shorten drastically if they run into fresh difficulties this weekend.

Given the disparity between expectation and achievement at Everton and Tottenham, it is perhaps surprising both have survived until late October. Last season had not even reached the starting blocks when Bruce Rioch was ousted at Arsenal, Howard Wilkinson lasted only marginally longer before Leeds lost patience.

Francis himself owes his job to Ossie Ardiles' dismissal three years ago next month, days before Kendall's predeof their exits from the Coca-Cola Cup has fuelled fresh dissent. Yet while Spurs face a hiding-to-nothing tomorrow against Sheffield Wednesday Everton have the ideal opportunity to whip up a backlash.

The visit of Liverpool is one occasion when the partisanship of the Goodison Park faithful is unqualified. Beating the Reds takes precedence over protest, and Kendall's team go into action knowing that the approach which led to Royle to joke about his "dogs of war" has knocked Liverpool out of their stride so successfully that Everton are unbeaten in seven derbies,

Liverpool's discomfort in

ter the blood, sweat and fears of the Olympic Stadium, England's captain rejoins the fray at a venue where the gratitude will be grudging at best after more than a century of rivalry.

Though the fixture between Crystal Palace and the leaders, Arsenal, has less than three decades' history, it has already developed an its own internal dynamic. Players and managers come and go, but Palace's inferiority complex, born of just two wins and six draws in 22 meetings, is passed on like a baton.

Their last victory over the Gunners at Selhurst Park was in 1979. They have not won at bome for six months while Ar-

Mike Walker. Now the manner chase of Paul Ince. A week af anywhere other than Salonika friends as Chelsea seek to put since May, Palace to win, then, a sequence of four points from World Cup Super Saturday

appeared to come at a bad time Leicester. for Derby. Nevertheless, a squad scattered around the globe reconvened smoothly at exert a presence. On Leicester's Sours in midweek and today put a run of eight wins in nine to the ultimate test against Manchester United. Last season Jim Smith's team prised four points from the champions, and can is booked in for a quiet afterconsider themselves contenders

if they repeat the Old Trafford

triumph of April. Meanwhile, the English game's Italian battalion suddenly find their mortality exposed. Gianfranco Zola, outstripped in the deification the face of such aggression was senal have not lost away since stakes only by Dennis Berg-

12 behind them at home 10

This is another contest where the past, albeit recent, will last appearance at Stamford Bridge, for an FA Cup replay in February, they were undone by an erroneous late penalty decision. Mike Reed, who made it, noon at Everton, though he is, intriguingly, down to take Leicester's next home game.

Elland Road tends to treat most visitors as if they were referees with a vendetta against Yorkshiremen, so the reception afforded to another of last weekend's heroes will be re-

Manchester United

Aston Villa. West Ham.

Tottenham ____ Southampton_

Age ranges

vealing. Newcastle's David Batty, the first of Howard Wilkinson's dream-team midfield to leave Leeds, will be the only native of the city on the pitch.

lan Rush may be less warmly received on his return but will be unperturbed as he strives for his first league goal since January. However, with Rod Wallace already up to seven - one fewer than his tally last season - George Graham can claim vindication for marginalising a player who hits 36 on Monday.

While Newcastle hover in mid-table, with games in hand that could put them top, Blackburn might be sharing the leadership if they beat a Southampton side reinforced by England's great lost No 9, David Hirst. Roy Hodgson, whose in-

endless column inches last week, has taken to Lancashire as if Internazionale and San Siro were a mere stepping stone to

his true destiny. The anniversary of Rav Harford's demise next week will be a reminder that Ewood Park had to wait until November for last season's opening victory, and compared with that kind of start the embattled Spurs manager may appear to have few worries.

But with Arsenal perched on the Premiership summit and their own side 14th with one goal to show for six Premiership matches, White Hart Lane regulars could be tempted to add insult to Francis' back injury in the event of another failure.



Aston Villa v Wimbledon

Aston Villa will be without Stan Collymore, who is beginning a threematch ban imposed after he was dismissed following a fight with Bolton's Andy Todd on October 4. Brian Little may return to the two-man attacking formation of Dwight Yorke and Savo Milosevic. Steve Staunton (knee) is tikely to return after missing the midweek. 3-0 Coca-Cola Cup defeat at West Ham. If Staunton is ruled out nnen England Under-21 star Riccardo Scimeca is set to retain his place in a three-man central defensive formation.

Wimbledon will be without young striker Jason Euell, who will be out of action for five weeks after dislocating a shoulder during Wimbledon's 2-0 Coca-Cola Cup third round defeat at Bolton Wanderers in midweek. The 20-year-old was due to see a specialist last night to assess the damage. Dons' manager joe Kinnear faces a striker shortage as he is also without Jon Goodman, who is facing an operation for cruciate knee ligament damage, while Dean Holdsworth left Wimbledon for Bolton recently.



Blackburn v Southampton

Stuart Ripley may return to the first team today after playing in a -teserves match on Thursday. Stéphane Henchoz should be cleared to play despite being left concussed in the midweek Coca-Cola Cup defeat at Chelsea. Tim Sherwood and Lars Bohinen should return, along with Kevin Gallacher and Jeff Kenna. Striker Chris Sutton did not train yesterday because of a groin complaint, but that was mainly a precaution and he is likely to be fit, Jason Wilcox is still suspended, while defenders Chris Coleman and Marlon Broomes, returning from injuries, are given extra time to recover.

Southampton will be without Matt Le Tissier, who damaged a thigh - muscle during the 2-1 Coca-Cola Cup victory at Barnsley in midweek. Yesterday's record 2m signing David Hirst may go straight into the team. Strikers Egil Ostenstad and Mike Evans are both doubtful with ankle problems, Either Hirst or Stig Johansen will partner Kevin Davies in attack. Manager Dave Jones will wait to see if Dutch defender Ken Monkou can recover from a leg injury and start.



Chelsea v Leicester

Kevin Hitchcock will be in contention to start in Ruud Gullit's side. Hitchcock's goalkeeping rivals Dmitri Kharin and Ed De Goey saw him save a penalty in the 4-1 Coca-Cola Cup shoot-out win over Blackburn on Wednesday night - his first appearance for eight months. Eddie Newton and David Lee will also come into contention for their first Premiership starts of the season, while Graeme Le Saux and Gianfranco Zola are likely to return. Celestine Babayaro, the Nigerian international, could make his Premiership debut. Dennis Wise is suspended and Gustavo Poyet (cruciate ligament) is out. Leicester will be looking to recover from the midweek 3-1 Coca-Cola Cup exit at the hands of Grimsby that saw their defence of the trophy prematurely ended. They should be boosted by the return of midfielder Muzzy Izzet and defender Pontus Kamark, and Emile Heskey may play a part after recovening from a groin strain. But Garry Parker (thigh), Steve Walsh and Ian Marshall (groin) are



Crystal Palace v Arsenal

Steve Coppell is likely to include Italian Ivano Bonetti in his squad. The former Tranmere Rovers and Grimsby midfielder has been signed on a non-contract basis. Coppell will be without Dougle Freedman and Kevin Muscat, who have joined Wolverhampton Wanderers on loan. Neil Emblen (hamstring and knee) could return to Palace's defence, possibly alongside Andy Linighan. Simon Rodger may also make a comeback. Palace captain Andy Roberts (shin) faces a late fitness test while Bruce Dyer is fit and should play up front with Paul Warhurst. Luis Boa Morte may have his first Premiership start after scoring twice in the 4-1 Coca-Cola Cup win over Birmingham. Dennis lergkamp. Tony Adams, Steve Bould, Nigel Winterburn and David beaman (who will equal lack Kelsey's 352 goalkeeping appearances for Arsenal) should all be recalled. Dutch winger Marc Overmars and French midfielder Emmanuel Petit were both injured playing for their countries last weekend but Petit has recovered. Ray Parlour (thigh). Lee Dixon (groin) and Patrick Vierra (ankle) are other doubts.



Jim Smith, whose side have won all of the six matches they have played at their new Pride Park Stadium, recalls Italian striker Francesco Baiano, who was rested for the midweek 2-1 Coca-Cola Cup win at Tottenham. Baiano, who has scored six goals this season, will renew his attacking partnership with Costa Rican international Paulo Wanchope, who scored both goals against Spurs. Captain Igor Stimac and winger Stefano Eranio were both missing with injuries in

Laursen has recovered from a groin strain. Alex Ferguson is likely to make 10 changes from the side that went out of the Coca-Cola Cup 2-0 to Ipswich in midweek. Peter Schmeichel, Gary Neville, Henning Berg, Gary Pallister, Denis Irwin, David Beckham, Nicky Butt, Ryan Giggs Teddy Sheringham and last season's top scorer, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, are all likely to return. David May is also back in contention. It is the first time this season that Ferguson has had his three strikers - Sheringham, Solskjaer and Andy Cole - all available at the same time.

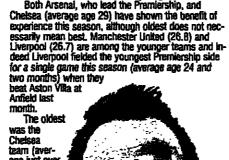
...And statistics

Balancing youth and experience

When Arsenal face Crystal Palace at Sethurst Park to-day there will be no doubt as to which side will have the edge in terms of experience. While Arsene Wenger's multinational team have enjoyed far greater exposure at the highest levels of the game than Steve Coppell's Premiership newcomers, there is also a

substantial guilf in the average ages of the two sides.

Arsenal, with an average of 29.4, have been fielding the oldest team in the Premiership this season, nereas Palace's is the second youngest at 26.6. Both Arsenal, who lead the Premiership, and isea (average age 29) have shown the benefit of



age just over 30) that opened the season at most surprising aspect of the figures is the nar-

rance. There is only

between Arsenal, the old-

est Premiership team,

and Derby County, the

While Derby (26.4) boast the youngest team based on the season overall, Everton have been sending out an even younger side in recent weeks. With Neville Southalt (39) losing his Crystal Palace Liverpool place to Paul Gerrard (24) and the Goods team also including three teenagers - John Oster, Danny Cadamarten and Michael Branch - the average age of the Everton team has dropped to 25.3. Southall is the second oldest player to appear in the Premiership this season another goalkeeper, Coventry's Steve Ogrizovic (40), is the oldest - while Liv-erpool's Michael Owen (17) is the Blackburn_ Sheffield Wednesday

Based on average ages for all Premiership games so far this season Eleven players over the age of 35 have started Premiership matches this season Steve Ogricovic (Coventry)

Neville Southall (Everton)

Peter Beardsley (Bolton)

Peter Shirtilff (Barnsley)

Gary Mabbutt (Tottenham) lan Rush (Newcastle) Dave Watson (Everton)

Ludek Mildosko (Wast Ham)

Steve Nicol (Sheffield Wednesday)

Stuart Pearce (Newcastle)

Andy Linighan (Crystal Palace)

Young guns
Seventeen teenagers have started
Premiership games this season

At 40 years old, the Steve Ogrizovic is the oidest player to start a ership match this

Michael Owen (Liverpool)

Danny Cadamarteri (Everton)

John Oster (Everton)

State (Everton) Rio Ferdinand (West Ham) Michael Branch (Everton) Harry Kewell (Leeds)— Sam Shilton (Coventry Jamie Carragher (Liverpool) Emile Heskey (Leicester) Stuart Campbell (Leicester) Carl Cort (Wimbledon)

Andrew Williams (Southampton)

Duncan Spedding (Southampton) Statistics: Brian Sears

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: HOW THEY STAND

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Everton v Liverpool



Terry Phelan, Gavin McCann and Neville Southall will be added to the 13 man squad that lost 4-1 to Coventry on Wednesday in the Coca-Cola Cup. It is unlikely that Paul Gerrard will be replaced in goal by Southall. Danny Cadamarten, injured playing for England Youth last week and only a late substitute on Wednesday, is fully fit and certain to start up front. Slaven Bilic is suspended. Everton need a win to escape the relegation zone position they occupy.

Liverpool's Neil Ruddock looks certain to play his first Premiership game since the first day of the season (when he broke his leg). He finally made a successful corneback in the 2-0 Coca-Cola Cup win at West Bromwich Albion in midweek. Phil Babb is out for a month with cracked ribs. Midfielder Jamie Carragher (ankle) is out. Paul Ince returns in midfield, partnered by Michael Thomas, Danny Murphy or Oyvind Leonhardsen. Rob Jones and Jason McAteer should both be back after recovering from minor injuries but Jamie Redknapp is doubtful with a calf problem and Mark Wright (back) is still out.



28.53 28.96 28.98

Leeds Utd v Newcastle Utd Wallson 7 Leading scorer Asprila 6 Leading scorer

Leeds manager George Graham will be eager to prove that his side's I-0 win over Manchester United three weeks ago was no fluke, despite it being their only home win from five games this season. Leeds captain David Hopkin is expected to play despite carrying a calf injury sustained in the 3-1 midweek Coca-Cola Cup win over Stoke. Striker Jimmy Hasselbaink is definitely out as he serves the second game of a three-match ban.

lan Rush returns to his old club having scored his first goal for Newcastle in the 2-0 midweek Coca-Cola Cup win over Hull, Rush will. be partnered up front by Danish international for Dahl Tomasson. Defenders Alessandro Pistone and Stuart. Pearce are likely to miss today's game but captain Rob Lee and winger Keith Gillespie could return. Former Leeds midfielder David Batty, Steve Watson and goalkeeper Shay Given, who were all rested against Hull in midweek. will all be in contention for returns in the starting line-up.



West Ham v Bolton



Harry Redknapp has problems as a result of Wednesday's 3-0 Coca-Cola Cup win over Aston Villa. Eyal Berkovitch (ankle) and Tim Breacker (harnstring) were injured, joining Paul Kitson (groin) and Ian Pearce (thigh) on the casualty list, Iain Dowie (ankle) and Andy Impey (toe) were also injured but have passed fitness tests to be in contention. Goalkeeper Ludek Miklosko is out for at least a week with a knee

Bolton will look to Dean Holdsworth to inspire them to what would be only their second Premiership win of the season (the first being on the opening day). Holdsworth will join Peter Beardsley up front - probably instead of John McGinlay. Close-season signings Robbie Elliott, Neil Cox and South African international Mark Fish are still out of action, although Fish has resumed light training, Jimmy Phillips may return to the first team in place of Andy Todd, who serves the first of a three-match ban. Nathan Blake is still suspended.

Tottenham v Sheff Wed

Tottenham manager Gerry Francis has two main injury worries for tomorrow's encounter with fellow Premiership strugglers Sheffield Wednesday. Centre-half Ramon Vega has a slight ankle injury following the midweek 2-1 Coca-Cola Cup defeat at home to Derby and the captain, Gary Mabbutt, is also under treatment for a thigh strain which could keep him out. Tottenham have won just twice this season in the Premiership, with both victories at home.

Wednesday have also won only twice this season, and have yet to do so away. Their new midfielder, Petter Rudi, is set to make his debut. The 23-year-old Norwegian international has been released by his club Molde allowing the manager, David Pleat, to name the £800,000 buy in his squad. Defender Jon Newsome returns from a three week lay-off with a hamstring injury. But Pleat is still without Peter Atherton, Andy Booth and Graham Hyde, while Patrick Blondeau, who has recently been involved in differences of opinion with his club, is suspended.



Derby v Manchester United Bains, Warchope 6 Leading scorer Steinglam, Scholes 3

midweek and are unlikely to return today. Danish defender lakob

FAIR PLAY LEAGUE

P Alcock

11 G Ashby

12 U Rennie

14 N Barry.

16 K Burge

17 D Elleray

18 G Poli

15 D Galleghe

Tottenha Leeds 11 Wimbledor 12 Bolton 15 Liverpool 16 Laice 18 Man Utd

UNFAIR PLAY LEAGUE

LEADING PREMIERSHIP SCORERS LEADING SCOTTISH SCORERS Ave 340 317 1 Bergicamo (Arsenal) 300 280 250 167 14 Blake (Bolton)

2 Sutton (B'bum) 3 Hartson (W Ham) 4 Wright (Arsenzi). 5 Carbone (S Wed). 6 Gallacher (B'burn) 7 Wallace (Leeds) 8 Balano (Derby) 9 Davies (Soton). 10 Asprilla (Newc see (Derby)2 12 Dublin (Coventry)4 13 Vielli (Chelsea).

1 Negri (Rangers) 2 Winters (Dun Utd) 4 Donnelly (Celtic). 5 Covne (Motherwell) 6 Smith (Durdermine)3 7 Larssson (Celtic)5 8 Wright (Kilmamock)3 9 McColst (Rangers) 10 Newell (Aberdeen)2 11 Hamilton (Hearts)5 12 Olofsson (Dun Utd)4 13 Dodds (Aberdeen) ...3 14 Lavety (Hibernian)3

15 Di Canto (Sheff Wed)..3

15 Burley (Celtic) ...

Saturday 18 October 1997

Seedings grow from England and Scotland successes

The complicated qualification formula for next year's World Cup finals aroused much controversy, but Uefa has decided to repeat the procedure for the qualifying competition for the European Championship in 2000. This means that there will again be plenty of games involving minnows - but at least England and Scotland are likely to be

seeded. Glenn Moore, Football

England and Scotland are both set to be nals are to be shared by Belgium and the there will be four sets of double-header in-attempted to placate the bigger countries like seeded when the draw for the qualifying Netherlands. rounds of the 2000 European Champi-

onship is made early next year. England's seeding will be a reward for finishing above Italy in their World Cup qualifying group while Scotland's first-ever seeding follows impressive displays in qualifying for both the World Cup and Euro 96. However, both countries will still have to play minor nations like San Marino and the Faroe Islands after Uefa, European football's governing body, decided against having a prequalifying phase for the competition.

Instead the procedure will be identical to the World Cup qualifying with England again likely to be placed in a five-team qualifying group and Scotland in a six. The fi-

The seeding formula, which needs to be ratified by Uefa's executive committee in Geneva on 5 and 6 December, is based on results in the qualifying competitions for Euro 96 and the 1998 World Cup. England, who can only be assessed on their World Cup record as they did not need to qualify for Euro 96, are fourth and Scotland level sixth with Yugoslavia. The table is led by Spain, Romania and Russia and also includes Germany, Italy and Norway. Missing from the first rank of seeds are France and the Netherlands. The Dutch, however, qualify automatically as do Belgium who will host the qualifying draw on 18 January in Ghent.

ternationals, on Wednesday and the following Saturday, as with Scotland's ill-fated trip to Latvia and Estonia. But Uefa have resisted pressure to filter out the junior nations. Apart from Liechenstein's freak draw with the Republic of Ireland these matches are usually a pointless exercise and Franz Beckenbauer is among those calling for a pre-qualifying tournament.

Uefa's action is partly altruistic and partly political. They are keen to promote football in emerging nations such as Moldova and have given financial aid to such countries. They are also keen to recognise as many nations as possible in order to increase voting strength in the ongoing power struggle with Fifa, the world governing body. Uefa have In order to reduce fixture congestion

England, Germany, Spain and Italy by guaranteeing them a place in a five-team group.

In a rare coup for England, Uefa have agreed to accept English as the "authoritative language" in disputes - however, they will make an exception when they deal with their own recently rewritten rulebook, which is in German. The Uefa statutes now incorporate the Swiss "Court of Arbitration in Sport" in an attempt to head off the growing inclina-

tion of clubs and federations to resort to law. The World Cup seedings remain uncertain. Early reports suggested England would not be one of the eight seeds for next summer as ranking would be decided on recent World Cup finals performances. However, Fifa are anxious to incorporate

their own rankings system in some way and are also considering recognising the growing influence of African football by seeding one of their five qualifiers.

Nothing can be decided until after the European play-offs as Italy, if they qualify, are certain to be seeded. The final decision will be confirmed at the World Cup organising committee meeting in Marseilles on 2 December, two days before the draw, but a probable system is likely to be agreed before the last qualifying match in Australia on 29 November. Sir Bert Millichip is England's representative on the relevant committee but other Football Association officials will also be lobbying hard. Though being seeded no longer carries the advantage of being based in one site it does mean avoiding Brazil.

Little hints

in chase for

Gascoigne

Chelsea and Everton yesterday dropped out of the running to

provide Paul Gascoigne with a home in English football, while Aston Villa gave a tantalising

hint that the Rangers and Eng-

land midfielder could still be

It was left to Brian Little to

keep everyone on tenterhooks.

There is a possibility that we might have somebody here by

next week," he said, again in-

sisted that any moves to sign the

former Tottenham player, for whom Villa have tabled a £4m bid, will not happen until after

next week's Uefa Cup tic in Ath-

the new face at Southampton, where the 29-year-old David

Hirst became the Saints' most

expensive signing at £2m from Sheffield Wednesday.

consider turning the Coca-Cola

Cup into an Anglo-Scottish competition with the final

played at either Wembley or

The League chairman,

David Sheepshanks, said: "I

think now is a good time to se-

riously discuss a British Cup."

12 pages of sport

start on page 17

The Football League is to

There was no mystery about

etic Bilbao.

Hampden.

INSIDE

moving to the Midlands.

GOLF

Price injury leaves rival captain unemployed

Correspondent, reports.

Zimbabwe's challenge at the Affred Dunhill Cup has been handicapped by Nick Price's withdrawal through injury, just as the complexities of the format became apparent. Andy Farrell reports from St Andrews.

The obvious difference between this competition and the World Cup is that one features threeman teams and the other twoman sides. Not for Zimbabwe. The No 2 seeds were downsized from a trio to a duo when the injured Nick Price quit after 12 holes yesterday.

Price, who started to feel the mystery injury after losing to Ernie Els in the semi-finals of the World Match Play a week ago, was level with Miguel Angel Jimenez when he retired. His team-mates, Tony Johnstone and Mark McNulty, both won, however, to give Zimbabwe a 2-1 victory over Spain.

Neither can afford to drop another point. Today in their last ualifying match. Zimbabwe face New Zealand, who beat South Korea 3-0, with the winners topping Group Four and

"They say 'beware of the injured golfer'. They might as well give us the trophy now." Johnstone, Zimbabwe's captain, said. "Nick is not one to complain about pain so it must be extremely sore. We are just grateful he made the effort and won an important match when I lost yesterday. It is about time Mark and I carried him. He has been carrying us all these years."

Price, who aggravated the pulled oblique muscle in his left side when he lost to Brad Faxon in third-fourth play-off at



first player in the 13 editions of the event who has had to retire. Inevitably with this competition, there is no easy answer as no replacement is on hand. Thanks to their seeding, Zimbabwe get first pick of a pairing in every match unless they meet America in the final, and they can use the device to take out the opposition's best player.

You know who won't be playing tomorrow," McNulty

Zealand captain, will have to sit out while Michael Long and Steve Alker seek one point between them. One contest that will be happening is that which pits

Els against Colin Montgomerie. Scotland and South Africa both won for the second time so their match will decide Group Three. David Frost, the Springboks' captain, confirmed the policy of playing Els against

Great. We'll see what happens." he said. Apart from at two US

Opens, the second of which was only last June at Congressional, Els also defeated the Scot during the 1994 World Match Play Championship, although Montgomerie won a play-off against the South African at last year's Million Dollar Challenge. "I've got a couple on Colin," Els their opponent's No 1. This was said. "He seems to be in a good

Wentworth on Sunday, is the said. Frank Nobilo, the New news to Monty. "Delightful, mood this week, I will have to defeat Japan 3-0. Then the

play well." England's situation is not so clear after Lee Westwood took a double-hogey six at the 17th. He went from one ahead to one behind Angel Cabrera, which led to Argentina beating England for the third time in three attempts. The English now have to beat the top-seeded Americans 3-0 to be sure of going through. A 2-1 win might be good enough unless Argentina

rules get complicated and the slide rule, and aggregate scores, apply. "Unless they are wearing red trousers and then Japan go

through," Mark James said. On a gusty day, the higher mathematics of the format were of no concern to the English captain. "It pales into insignificance compared to trying to play this course in this weather."

Scores, tables, Digest

page 23

EDUCATION

GUIDE

THE HIGHER

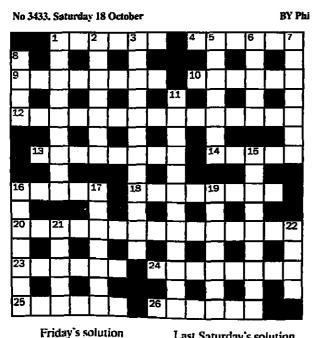
On Friday 24 October and Friday 31 October, The Independent will be publishing The Higher Education Guide, an honest, direct and down to earth guide to British higher education in two special supplements.

The guide is geared towards students taking A'levels and planning to go into higher education, as well as their parents and careers advisers.

The Higher Education Guide will be produced in association with "The Student Book 1998", published by Trottman.

THE INDEPENDENT

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Last Saturday's solution

ACROSS

Is city investing in company cut in two? (6) Talk about shortened athletic event (6)

Chap takes on Universi-ty cadet, trained and knowledgeable (8) 10 Back English author (6) 12 Agricultural developments making life hard for golfers! (5,10)

battle charge? (8) 14 Dull house needs to sound active (2-3) 16 Judges question releas-ing last traitor (5) 18 Tell chap to be casual (8)

20 Ends game for bridge opponents - will both these get upset about that? (5.3,7) 23 No faction backed scien-

tist (6) Nothing distracted a string player (8) Offence in Church -

crime involving doctor attended by Yard (6)

After most of fight, com-

poser turned up dead in Parisian street (9) Stem offering reliable support (7)

Fear I'm wrong to inter-rupt nursery's dairy food Informed, but out of the field (2.5)

Exclamation over US soldier's dog (5) A certain amount is to be seen surrounding bird's bone (7) Composer's appeal in-

volving heart of quartet

Succeed, get the better of? Quite the opposite! 15 Despondent countryman

restraining flowing tears 16 Girl to bring joy to un-employed (7)

17 'Anon' covers some tomfool poet (7)

building (7) 21 With a little work, I am restricting introduction of unlawful drug (5) 22 Elizabeth shunning

book's artist (4) The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations, Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018, The Independent, I Canado Square. Canary Wharf, London E1458L. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: C Priestman, Shipsion-on-Stone; G Talbot, Oxford; N Long, Bristot; E MacNiven, Glasgow: D Gibbs. Luois, Ireland.

RUGBY UNION

De Glanville backs Dallaglio for captaincy

Phil de Glanville was thrown the journalistic equivalent of a hospital pass yesterday and promptly found himself buried beneath a ton of unwelcome publicity. England's captain said he expected Lawrence Dallaglio, the Wasps flanker, to take over the reins for next month's home Test with Australia and confessed that he was unsure ago, and stressed that selecof securing a place in the starting line-up.

De Glanville, who led England in six of last season's exercise Woodward's mind seven internationals, was asked whether he would pick Glanville agreed there were himself as captain if he were a number of possible combithe new England coach, Clive nations, despite injury ac-Woodward. "I'm not really counting for Jeremy Guscott, sure," he said, "At present I his club-mate and rival. would pick Lawrence. He "There are so many players has the respect of all the players and leads from the front. It's very difficult to say but you have to be realistic. My money is on Lawrence."

captaincy issue low on his list of priorities and De Glanville's comments suggested he had done likewise. The Bath centre said he did not consider himself to be at the belm, even though he led his country in their last Test, the comprehensive defeat by the Wallabies in Sydney three months tion was his primary goal.

The contest for outsidehalf and centre is likely to more than any other and De pushing for places," he said. "I've never taken anything for granted and I'm not sure if I'll make the team."

- Chris Hewett

OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London F14 SDE, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford Back issues available from Horors; Newspapers, (1988) \$40,70. Saturday 18.1 Student 1917. Registered is a new paper with the Pers Cather

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Friday's solution

26 First of runners tucking into meat has to go fast

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Little hints

in chase for

Gascoigne

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A LONG TO SERVE

State of the state

PERSONAL FINANCE, PROPERTY & MOTORING



What's mine isn't yours: Divorcing couples use their home and its contents as the last weapon in a bitter dispute - and estate agents earn their commission from them

Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee

Divorce creates a goldmine for estate agents

'ATION One in four marriages according to official figures. At least 150,000 couples will divorce this year and one, if not both, of the partners will need to find somewhere else to live. But, as Penny Jackson writes, there is Tour Publishing one group of people who in in the Courte expect to do well out of our marital woes -estate agents.

> Even though the UK's divorce figures have been falling slightly in the past few years, this country nevertheless has the dubious distinction of having the thirdhighest number of marriage breakdowns in Europe.

Not only are single buyers increasing in number but a growing proportion of these have left a marriage or longterm relationship, according to a report this week by General Accident Property Ser-

Often with children, they are reluctant to settle for something much smaller than they are used to. So it is not surprising that estate agents see divorce as a substantial part of their ousiness. From one broken. marriage could come three transactions.

"We take on far more divorce-related sales than we do for death," says Richard Williscroft of the Chichester-based Henry Adams and Partners.

"No wonder they say here, 'Are you happily married or do you live in West Sussex?' It is undoubtedly our biggest sector and it has grown in the past few years."

Like other agents familiar with the painful consequences of divorce, he has learned how to tread diplomatically through emotional minefields: "It all comes down to trust and sensitivity. For instance, we show people around when the children are at school.

"And if a woman is being forced to sell, you have to be careful that a potential purchaser doesn't reduce her to tears by saying how lovely a room is or asking how she can bear to leave. We act as a buffer. Solicitors and spouses even use us to find out whether a certain offer is acceptable or whether someone could be out by a certain date. We do not get drawn into taking sides."

Not that easy though, when weapon in a bitter dispute.

out a sale or atternatively sell it as quickly as possible at a rock-bottom price to spite each other. Each partner may have instructed a different agent. Into these murky waters steps Ruaraidh Adams-Cairas, who runs the litigation support department at Savills, the prop-

erty consultants. The wealthy not only like to organise their finances from London but their divorces as well and the properties he values are worth not less than £1.5m. Increasingly he is used by both parties although he has been known to drive a sceptical husband around a selection of houses to prove a point.

Ex-wives should not have to move from Chelsea or do without a swimming pool if that is what they are used to.

"Wealthy or not, any couple divorcing would do well to employ a chartered surveyor to do a bank valuation. An estate agent's marketing report based on a wildly optimistic guide

rift," says Mr Adams-Cairns. divorcing couples use their The co-habiting "divorce" is no home and its contents as the last. . less troubled and in many cases is more complicated. "Ide-

One partner may want to see ally couples should be a high valuation on a house, the co-owners of a property, othother low. They may try to drag erwise they should sign a declaration of trust," says Hazel Wright, of solicitors Cumberland Ellis Peirs. "Without such a legally

binding agreement one partner could find themselves without a home. In the case of same-sex couples they may not even be welcomed back by their families. If there are children it is easier since provision is made under the Children Act."

Most commonly, divorce which causes the greatest upheaval in terms of the division of assets happens when a couple are in their 40s. They will have lavished time and money on their home and moving is a terrible wrench.

Mary Drewes fought hard to stay in the £260,000 family house when her husband left her and their two children. "I was able to argue that in a rising market we would not save anything by moving. But then he started to get difficult about its increasing value. In the end we managed to do a trade-off

have to take in a lodger, though, to help pay the way." This is not unusual. While divorce is lucrative for lawyers and estate agents, it is liable to impoverish the respondents. Lindsay Cuthill, from Savills'

Fulham office, has noticed the tendency for divorcees to overestimate their settlement. "It is often substantially below that [original estimate] and we advise them not to start looking for another home until they are sure of the amount. You do end up being viewed as

far too much about the circumstances of their divorce." Rarely is a sale straightforward. "I went around to one house where the couple were living on different floors and another where the custody of the dog was disputed," he said.

a counsellor and people tell me

Perhaps this is one area where all agree that estate agents do earn their commission. Francoise Ellery of Browns, in Surrey, was selling a Grade II listed house for a divorcing couple. "The wife used every tactic to stop us showing the house. First of all it was overpriced. It was kept in a terrible mess or there would be no key when we arrived. It took a year longer to price can cause an unbridgeable with other assets. I am going to sell than it should have done."

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INSIDE

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5/JONATHAN DÁVIS Lessons of the '87 crash

9/PAUL SLADE Police, thieves, and innocent bank customers 12/GAVIN GREEN **British minnows** shine in the car makers' pool

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Virgin has done it again

NIC CICUTTI

A sad ritual appears to be developing here. Every few months, this column reviews one of the growing number of products coming from the stable of Richard Branson's fledgling financial services empire. Virgin Direct. Each time. I end up praising the company's initiatives, albeit with some caveats.

This week, Virgin has teamed up with Royal Bank of Scotland and its main financial backer, the Australian insurance giant AMP, to come up with a lifetime mortgage/savings account called One. Is this initiative also worth two-and-a-half cheers? I'm afraid so.

What Virgin has done is to start a debate on exactly what constitutes a bank account. Until now, the typical system has involved an aecount through which all sorts of other bills, standing orders and debits are paid, including mortgages.

Virgin's idea is that you borrow money to buy a house and for your living expenses from its One account and pay in your wages each month in the expectation that the repayments you make each month will cancel out the debt before you retire.

The package comes with bells and whistles: there is a 24-hour telephone banking service, you receive a debit card and cheque book and monthly statements will tell you how much you have paid off, Interest on the card is set at the mortgage rate, currently a maximum of 8.9 per cent, still much cheaper than virtually any other card.

Moreover, the amount

owe, reducing debt that much faster. Virgin calculates that the total saving for some people could run into tens of thousands of pounds over 25 vears. Wonderful

Yet for many people, having a separate mortgage account into which you pay a monthly amount is an essential discipline needed if the loan is to be paid off on time.

Virgin says there are many people who chafe at this "discipline". This is true. There are also many others who, were it not for the fact that they have to account to a lender each month, might let their payments dip. If you are one of these people.

Virgin's One is not for you. Moreover, interest rates offered to those who move into credit after a few years is a fairly measly 5 per cent gross. Here, Virgin says that as the minimum borrowing period is five years, there is plenty of time before this will need to be paid, by which time its rates may have risen. So, two cheers for Virgin then. Oh hell, two-and-a half.

Last week, I said some scathing things about NatWest Life's uncompetitive pension products. Sav what you like about the outfit, but they have efficient PRs. In the pained tones reserved for personal finance journalists I was informed that NatWest Life's charges on its products are only slightly worse than average.

Given that charges on pensions are generally a ripoff. I'm not sure quite what point they are trying to make. But if they want me to accept you pay in is immediately that NatWest Life is barely credited against what you average. I'm happy to do so.

MONEY MAKEOVER

Ways to keep the taxman from the door

Name: Harriet Craven Age: 52

Occupation: University lecturer The problem: She recently took early retirement, receiving a lump sum of about £30,000, which is in Britannia **Building Society.**

Harriet receives a small monthly pension, enough to meet bills on her home, on which she has a small mortgage, and she works part time. She owns 450 shares from Woolwich Building Society's stock market flotation, which are invested in a Fidelity PEP. She has a very small endowment with Sun Life. Harriet would like to invest in a tax-efficient way. The investment should be for growth initially, but with the option to provide an income in the

future when fully retired. She is also considering taking in a lodger or letting the entire property to augment her income. Her son lives at home with her.

The adviser: Fiona Price, managing director, Fiona Price & Partners, independent financial advisers, 33 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AA. phone 0171-430 0366.

The advice: You have a current account with NatWest with around £1,000 in it but if it starts to build up any higher, it should be transferred to your savings account where it will earn a higher rate of interest. You also have a savings account with Britannia Building Society with around £27,000 deposited. We recommend you maintain a minimum of three months' net income for emergencies.

We would recommend you move to Britannia's Capital Trust 30-day notice a Tessa (tax exempt special savings acaccount. This is a postal account pay-



ciety accounts where deposits held within them for a five-year term are

the amount that may be invested is limited to £9,000 over the five-year term.

Royal Bank of Scotland is offering a gross annual rate of 7.65 per cent and we recommend investing £3,000 in it.

not subject to income tax. You can only

have one Tessa at any one time and

Harriet

Craven

growth

now, and

income in

years' time

a few

wants to

invest her

money for

National Savings are risk-free government products which can be purchased through the Post Office. This investment is designed to provide tax-free capital growth over a five-year period. The return will match inflation, enhanced by an additional 2.75 per cent per annum. We recommend you below on a single-company PEP.

On the investment side, you transferred your Woolwich shares into a PEP with Fidelity, which offers one of the best plans for windfall shares and makes no charge until 1999. As you have already invested with Fidelity for the current tax year, you may not use any other provider for your general PEP. We recommend a £6,000 investment in a Fidelity PEP. We suggest Fidelity's WealthBuilder fund.

In addition to your allowance of £6,000 for a general PEP, you may contribute £3,000 into a single-company PEP. We suggest you consider investing £3,000 in a secure single-company PEP as an alternative to the National Savings index-linked certificate.

We recommend the HSBC International PEP Plus. This is a 5.5-year fixed-term contract and pays your money back at the end. In addition, you will achieve the average growth of a range of stock markets over the period. If you remain invested for the full term, you receive a loyalty bonus of 20 per cent of the growth achieved.

We also recommend you invest £8,000 in a with-profits fund. The value increases each year through bonuses which, once added, cannot be taken away. Furthermore, a terminal bonus

Other than the small Sun Life endowment, you do not have any life assurance, nor is it necessary. Your son would benefit from your estate in the event of your death and hence would have sufficient assets for his needs.

You have no disability insurance but your employer will continue to pay invest £3,000, but first read our advice your salary for six to 12 months if you are unable to work. You may want to consider Permanent Health Insurance. Premiums for a policy paying about £700 a month would cost about £40 a month.

Your house is valued at around £220,000. You are concerned that you might have to sell your house to fund nursing home fees if you required long-term care. There are a number of insurance policies that can provide an annual income to cover the cost of the fees and these can be funded by means of a regular premium or lump sum. We would be happy to provide a recommendation for this kind of cover but if your primary concern is the loss of your home we would suggest you consult your solicitor.

Taking in a lodger can prove taxefficient. You are permitted to receive up to £4,250 annually in rent from a lodger without paying tax. If you rent your home, you will be subject to tax at your marginal rate.

Your total estate is worth more than the threshold of £215,000 and hence inheritance tax at the rate of 40 per cent would be payable. It could be covered by assets such as bank and building society accounts and investments. The verdict: Fiona's advice was very comprehensive. The fact that I had options to choose between was useful.

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT/NORWICH UNION'S LONG-TERM PERSONAL CAREPLAN

Good value in covering the cost of extended nursing

Long Term Personal Careplan (Future Assured).

The deal: One in three women and 20 per cent of men will need long-term care before they die. This product aims to fund longterm care, bypassing tough local

must be sold to pay for care.

ing a reasonably competitive 6 per cent

gross on deposits over £5,000. Alter-

natively, you may wish to move your

funds to Abbey National's Bonus Postal

You should also consider starting

account, which pays 7.2 per cent gross

count). Tessas are bank or building so-

on balances from £2,000 to £9,999.

A 60-year-old woman can authority restrictions on the or a £9,380 lump sum. A high-moves a nasty risk facing thou-sessor to validate claims.

The product: Norwich Union's amount of help that can be er premium could generate a sands of pensioners who could Drawbacks and risks: Because money would pass to your esgiven before a person's home higher benefit. Norwich Union lose their homes. The policy this is an insurance policy, polwill pay for nursing at home, wheelchairs, chairlifts or any many other providers. Ditching two in three women, or four in obtain cover worth £12,000 a similar aids. It will find nursing controversial and potentially year for £73 a month or a one- homes, or visiting nurses, and off premium of £12,960. A male monitor their cost and quality. Living tests, NU uses a fuller aged 60 would pay £59 a month. Plus points: The policy re- test run by an independent as-

humiliating "Activities of Daily

term care. Premiums are then and may have to rise. dead money. Scottish Amicable. Verdict: A good offer. Worth by contrast, has an investment- considering if budgets allow. linked contract whereby the Marks out of five: Three.

seems good value compared to icy-holders may be among the David Wright, of financial adviser Johnstone Douglas, worfive men, who never need long- ries that premiums are cheap

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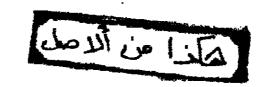
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Source: Micropal Based on £100 per month from 14.2.86 to 1.7.97. Offer to Bid prices. With gross income re-invested. Over the 5 years to 1.7.97 the same Source: Nucropal pased on Life per month from 192200 to 1.7.97 the same process would have provided an average annual growth rate of 19.5%. The figures shown illustrate what the return would have been if the Trust had been investment would have provided an average annuar growns take at 2.25 miles above the sound time return would have been it the trust had been designed for inclusion in a PEP at its launch in February 1986. The value of stockmarket investments and any income from them may fall as well as rise and investors. eligible for inclusion in a PEP at its launch in recruary 1960. The value of studentialist investments and any income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Exchange rate change may cause the value of any overseas investments to go up or down. Where applicable we will recover any overseas taxes wherever possible and practical. Tax assumptions are subject to statutory change. The tax treatment of PEPs will change in April 1999. The value to an investor of any Lix advantages depends on personal circumstances. "For your protection, your calls to Scottish Widows may be recorded or monitored.



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iropean PEP

Let the little folk carry you away

From now on, look twice at any painting or print with fairies, goblins or dragons in it, especially if it is Victorian. It could be worth snapping up. As John Windsor explains, the next collecting boom could leave you with a fairytale ending.

There are fairies at the bottom of the next art investment boomlet. Sotheby's will be first into the magic rircle with a bumper 326-lot sale of British Fantasy Art on 30 October, culled partly from a big private collection.

At the Royal Academy, an exhibition, Victorian Fairy Painting, opens on 13 November, the same date as a selling exhibition, Fairy Folk in Fairy Land, at the London dealer Peter Nahum's Leicester Galleries,

Paintings of fairjes by Victorian artists whose names have hitherto been scarcely known at street level - John Anster "Fairv" Fitzgerald, John Simmons, Robert Huskisson - will rise in price.

So will fairy paintings by Victorians best known for other subject matter, such as those of John Atkinson Grimshaw. His paintings of dimly lit, squelchy suburban streets are worth up to £200,000. His rarer fairy paintings, such as his Iris, Spirit of the Rainbow, on show at the Leicester Galleries, could now be worth £120,000.

And there will be new interest in such characters as Richard "Dickie" Doyle, father of Arthur Conan Doyle, spiritualist and creator of Sherlock Holmes. Dickie was a household name in Victorian times. He designed the famous frolicking Punch magazine cover of 1849 and was a prolific illustrator of fairy tale books.

There are ink and watercolour works of his at Sotheby's at £600-£800. Mr Nahum disdains Doyle's skimpy sketches but is offering his full-colour original prints at £500-£600 and watercolours at around

Sotheby's also has pencil, ink in which the popult and the erotic and chalk sketches by Sir Joseph could flourish without disapproval.



some of their goings-on had sym-

bolic meaning for Masons and

Rosicrucians. A Sylph sprinkling

early morning pearls of dew is likely

to be the Rosicrucian spirit of the

air for the Ros Crux, the dew cross.

Fairies could become a lucrative

quarty for collector-investors pre-

pared to research the Victorians'

heydey from about 1840, when

spiritualism and table-rapping

spread from America to Britain,

until about 1870. But it remained

a potent undercurrent in British

painting and illustration up until

the horrors of the First World War.

You can find echoes of Paton and

Fitzgerald in the Pre-Raphaelites.

It is a peculiarly British genre.

The craze for fairies had its

fascination with the occult.

John Atkinson Grimshaw, well known for his paintings of dimly lit, squelchy suburban

streets, also painted 'Iris, Spirit of the Rainbow

Photograph;

the University of Meisei, Tokyo. She has accumulated a big collection of Victorian fairy pictures, some bought for her by Mr Nahum, has translated Conan Doyle and Joe Cooper's book on the Cottingley fairy hoax, and has published monographs tracing how Japanese literature began to adopt British fairles in the Twenties and Thirties.

Mr Nahum has discovered that Having seen the RA exhibition, Professor of English literature at

visit the Tate's exhibition, "The Age

of Rossetti, Burne-Jones and

Watts: Symbolism in Britain 1860-

1910" for comparison. Those three

of the Victorian artists' fairylands

lay in their realism. The crowded

fairy scenes of Doyle or Paton were

just as believable as Frith's scenes

of The Derby Day or The Railway

Station. Add a whiff of opium,

were off on a totally legit trip.

Much of the seductive appeal

were away with the little folk.

which fairy paintings occasionally Sotheby's auction: "Realms of the hint at, and the jaded Victorians Mind: British Fantasy Art and Illustration", Thursday 30 October But if you hesitate to reach for (10.30am), Leicester Galleries sellyour wallet, consider this: the ing exhibition, "Fairy Folk in Fairy Japanese are buying fairies. The Land", 13 November-20 December, illustrated book £10, £12.50 with wand that sparked the present proliferation of fairyology in London p&p, 5 Ryder Street, London SW1 came from Kimie Imura-Lawlor, (0171-930 6059).

INTERNET INVESTOR



ROBIN AMLÒT

Find a mortgage on the Web

As a rough rule of thumb you can reck- work out how much you need to save on on there being around 1,000 mortgage schemes on offer in the UK at any one time.

One of them will be right for you but quite how you find it may appear daunting. The power of your PC and of the World Wide Web can help you find the mortgage you want although you can not yet actually get a mortgage over the Web.

However, a number of brokers and providers will give you an indication in principle of whether your application is likely to succeed.

What you can do on nearly all the websites of the mortgage brokers and mortgage lenders on the Internet is calculate what your desired mortgage is likely to cost you.

Bear in mind that the number you will be offered will not be an exact quotation. Think of it more as a rough guide.

These "mortgage calculators" all have slightly different approaches - the look and feel may not be exactly the same - but all provide you with answers in just a few moments.

Working out what a mortgage would cost you used to take a fair chunk of time, a pocket calculator and several sheets of paper. No longer.

Most mortgage calculators on the Web allow you to specify the mortgage term and the size and type of the loan. in return, they will show you the monthly repayments you are likely to face for a given rate of interest.

set the rate of interest. Others offer you options to choose from, Some calculators will also tell you what kind of income you are likely to need to support a given loan, based

roughly on the standard multiples of

three to three-and-a-half times single

Some of the calculators ask you to

income and so on. You may be considering an interestonly mortgage linked to some sort of savings vehicle to repay the capital sum at the end of the term.

If this is the case, Paragon Mortgages' site is among those which allows you to make a further calculation to on a monthly basis to repay your mortgage at the end of the term.

This calculator allows you to vary the assumed annual growth rate, which means, for example, that if you are more pessimistic about the likely future returns on your investments, you may make greater provision.

Paragon also has a calculator called House Evaluator which will value your

In exchange for entering the original purchase price, month and year in which you bought and also the region in which you live, the calculator will give you an estimated current valuation.

This is obviously a simplistic exercise which does not, among other factors, take account of property type but may give you some idea of what your current home might realise when you put it on the market.

If you are a first-time buyer, your best starting place to discover the ins and outs of what taking on a mortgage entails is likely to be one of the mortgage brokers' sites or, alternatively, that of one of the major lenders such as Cheltenham & Gloucester, Halifax or

A quick look through their introductory pages is likely to save you at least one trip down the high street to a lender's branch.

Of course, what is available on the Web is changing and growing all the

For example, John Charcol, one of the country's leading mortgage brokers. now has a new site with a detailed and regularly updated guide to current mortgage "best buys".

John Charcol: www.johncharcol.co.uk. Paragon Mortgages: www.paragon-mortgages.co.uk Cheltenham & Gloucester: www.cheltglos.co.uk Halifax: www.halifax.co.uk Nationwide:

www.nationwide.co.uk

Car insurance on the way up

GET YOUR

PENSION

OFF TO A

TODAY

sive policies rose just over 2 per cent in the last quarter. Noncomprehensive cover rose 1.7 per cent, according to a survey by AA Insurance.

Insurers have been pre-

Prepare for the cost of motor competition from several teleinsurance to go up over the next phone-based insurers and broyear. The cost of comprehen- kers whose entry into the market in the past three years has forced prices down.

Noel Paton, a well-known illus-

trator of his day, rather bullishly

estimated from £400-£600 for a lot

There has not been such a

major rediscovery of a collecting

genre since Victorian painting it-

self came to the fore at auction in

the late Eighties. Then, fairies were

dismissed as peripheral to the

artists' main ocuvre. Real flesh and

blood, especially female and di-

aphanously draped, and busy

not just meaningless ephemera.

They were deeply embedded in

their psyche. Fairyland offered a

haven from the demands of sci-

entific and technological progress,

But the Victorians' fairies were

genre scenes were the thing.

of 10 to £3,000-£4,000.

But industry rumours of a shake-out, as one or more firms decide they can no longer compete, may mark the end of low wented from pushing up costs by prices for policyholders.

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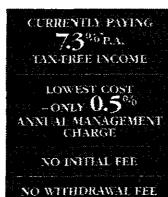
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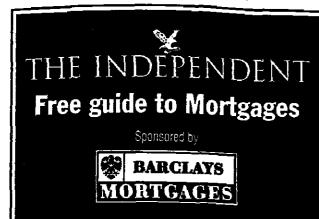
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BRIAN TORA

Sneaky Germans

mount up for you to deal with on your return. Just imagine. The Bundesbank sneakily put up interest rates - well, as sneakily as you can when every other aspiring entrant to EMU follows suit. Talk removed as well. about an orchestrated kneejerk reaction. And it added to the cost of my holiday!

The central banks of those countries deemed likely to be the first entrants to a single the same over the next six months.

It was rather appropriate that my first task on returning to London was to address a convention of German bankers. From the perspective of Frankfurt and Hamburg, the prospect of a single European currency does not look in doubt. It is not just the political will that is there - the belief is that the economic convergence can be achieved.

moment. The Motor Show opened this week amid a flurry of statements from motor company chief executives saying Britain must be part of EMU. Already a number of car manufacturers with plants across Europe and in Britain are invoicing in euros. It was not just the continental car the single currency. General Motors has indicated it might

To some extent, this is has undoubtedly hit the profmore flexible labour system ment. which the manufacturing industry will be loath to surmigration across the Channel theless, the battle lines are being firmly drawn.

was achievable in the ab- 4000.

The trouble with going on sence of harmonious tax holiday is the problems that regimes. I have much sympathy with that. The booze cruise has become part of the British way of life.

It will become even more attractive if the costs of converting sterling into francs is

In practice, some degree of local taxation differential is inevitable. It already exists in the sense that local authorities charge for their services at different rates. A more federal European currency reacted in system would probably not a similar way. Expect more of create too many problems. But the big imbalances would have to be ironed out.

If this is a detail, then convergence remains the important aspect of the move to a single European currency. It has been the belief in convergence that has driven bond markets higher. Indeed, this has not just been a European phenomena. Third World debt has been accelerating in value, reducing the risk premium to the point where It really is the topic of the many commentators consider dangers are now being built into the system.

Even Alan Greenspan indicated he was concerned at the extent of possible overheating in the bond market.

His comments, and the rise in continental rates, have brought to a close the bull market running bonds that makers that wanted Britain in have delivered handsome profits over recent months. What we now have to determove manufacturing on to the mine is if the retrenchment Continent if Britain stays out. will have far to go or if this will simply be a mild correcposturing. The rise in sterling tion in what is otherwise a readiustment in the cost of its of some of the car manu- money to reflect the realities facturers, but we retain a of a low-inflation environ-

Time will tell, but writing this as I am, on the anniverrender. It is hard to see a mass sary of the great storm that preceded the stock market post-January 1999. Never- crash, I am a little cautious.

Brian Tora is chairman of the One British chief execu- investment strategy committee tive cast doubt on whether a at Greig Middleton and may single European currency be contacted on 0171-655

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THE JONATHAN DAVIS COLUMN

Correction is some way off

What are the lessons of the great stock market crash of 10 years ago? Rather like the Kennedy assassination, anyone in the City who lived through the dramatic events of the Monday market meltdown in October 1987 is unlikely to forget it. It was a time when great reputations, as well as great amounts of moncy, were won and lost.

to be out of joint, adding to the sense that what was happening was in some way unreal. took its big tumble, much of Britain had been brought to a standstill by freakish hurricane winds - the famous storms which the weatherman Michael Fish famously failed to forecast. George Soros, to name but one of the crash's victims, proved to be just as fallible. The world's about Britain's new "ecomost famous market speculator had publicly predicted a market crash only days before. but thought that it would come in Tokyo, not in London and New York. He lost several hundred million dollars when the wrong markets fell.

By contrast, someone who did come out of the crash with his reputation enhanced was Alan Greenspan, appointed as chairman of the Federal Reserve only months before the market went into its record nosedive. His sure handling of the potential financial crisis established the reputation for calm prescience that has stuck to him ever since.

The immediate worry was that the stock market crash would turn a financial crisis into an economic slump, as it had done in the 1930s. Then governments and central bankers had compounded the problem by tightening monetary conditions. In 1987, forearmed by previous experience, and with Greenspan to the fore, the central bankers and finance ministers quickly made it clear that they were monetary tiller if it proved necessary to keep the finan-

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black. This, it would appear, is

the view of Axa Equity & Law,

brochures for its Multipension

which carried a picture of a

black person wearing a shirt and

tie. He was dropped and an im-

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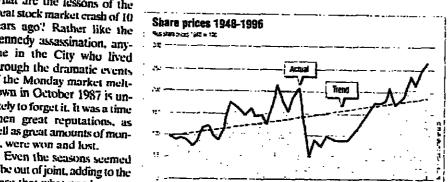
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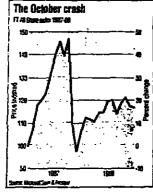


The Friday before the market cial system affoat. With hindsight, maybe they were too willing to avert trouble.

Nigel Lawson, the then Chancellor, was certainly not helped by the crash. His "Yuppic hoom" had helped to win the 1987 general election just four months earlier and sparked a lot of wild talk nomic miracle. But overconfidence of the kind that often precedes market setbacks proved his eventual un-

Looking back at the crash, it is easy to be sanguine. As we know now, the October 1987 market melidown was a classic bursting of a speculative bubble, but the lasting fallout for investors was limited. On both sides of the Atlantic, share prices had simply moved too far ahead of themselves. The FT All-Share index had risen some 60 per cent in little more than seven months by the time it reached its peak (which was actually in July).

All the crash did, with hindsight, was bring the mar-



axed because the man did not

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section received a rash of calls

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sanctioned by Mark Wood,

chief executive at Sun Life and

ing with Axa Equity & Law.

Apparently the decision was

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from brokers that they would be brochures.

Provincial, the company merg- a pension from this man?

Strange, then, that The In-

You can use anyone's face to racial bias. The first picture was

sions - as long as it is not look sober-suited enough.

ket back down to earth, albeit in dramatic fashion. The index fell by some 30 per cent during the October crisis, but for all the drama still managed to end the year slightly higher than it had begun it. As the charts show, how you interpret the crash depends on the perspective from which you look at it. On a short-term view, it

was a dramatic collapse. What

made it so frightening was that

shares seemed for a while to

have gone into virtual freefall. The Dow Jones index in New York lost 508 points, or some 20 per cent, in a single day. Nobody has ever seen anything quite like it, before or since. But from a longerterm perspective, in the context of a 15-year bull market in equities, it merely looks like a blip in an otherwise relatively smooth upward path. (Anyone buying unit or investment trusts should look out for sudden improvements in their performance records, thanks to the management companies now being able to rebase the start of their 10-year record to the days after the crash.) Most

fall? Two key factors in the scale of the fall were the impact of portfolio insurance and the still imperfectly undermarkets and the rapidly growr hnt unven system for using here.

sociation of British Insurers.

Mr Wood cuts a very im-

fact, as the black man whose

face no longer appears on Axa's

to be asked is: after Axa's purg-

ing of ethnic minority faces

from its publicity, would you buy

But the question that needs

shares were back to their pre-

crash levels within a couple of

computers to re-engineer in-

stitutional portfolios. Its fatal flaw was that it generated a flood of automatic sell orders at just the wrong time: the more share prices fell, the more sell orders it produced. It therefore exaggerated the market's decline. Could the 1987 crash have

been foreseen? No, in the sense that the scale of the fall was way beyond previous experience. But yes in the broader sense that the stock market had become overvalued and was bound to have to correct before too long. There was no shortage of signs that the market was becoming dangerously overheated in the early part of 1987. All the traditional valuation indicators that investors rely on - dividend yields, price/carnings ratios, asset value multiples were flashing a warning as the market went into its giddying rise in the first half of the year.

The indicator that gave the most telling signal was the yield ratio, which measures the relationship between bond yields and the yield on the stock market. The ratio is a fundamental determinant of share values. In the UK, the yield on bonds at its peak in 1987 was 3.3 times the yield on the stock market, a higher multiple than it had been at any previous stock market peak. Medium and long-term interest rates started to rise some months before the market crashed.

That is one reason why it is possible to say that the market today is overvalued without having to say that it has to end in another crash like that of 1987. Although conventional valuation indi-Why was it so dramatic,a cators suggest the market is again becoming overvalued, the yield ratio is still within its historical trading range, Longterm interest rates have not yet stood links between the stock made any significant upwards move. When they do, it may ing futures markets. Portfolio be time to start worrying tried invention: a theory-dri-tions, but that time is not yet

Would you buy a pension from him? By happy coincidence, this writer was a guest of Mr Wood at a dinner hosted by the Asposing figure - as imposing, in

- Nic Cicutti Imposing: Mark Wood

VIRGIN'S CHALLENGE

One to upset the high street banks

Virgin Direct, the financial ser- prospective mortgage borrowvices arm of Richard Branson's cola to airlines empire, is mounting its higgest challenge to high street banks by unveiling a mortgage-cum-bank ac-count called One.

The company claims its onestop account, which includes 24hour telephone banking, a debit levied when the facility is used. card and a maximum interest rate on all debts of 8.9 per cent will revolutionise the sector.

Mr Branson says: "Banking ward business. It astonishes me that it has been allowed to become so complicated."

The One account involves

ers arranging a loan through Virgin, subject to a minimum of ESULUUI. On top of the loan, which can be up to 95 per cent of the property's value. Virgin agrees an additional loan facility of, say, £5,000, Interest on this additional amount is only

Each month, account holders pay their income into the ac-APR, is a unique concept that count. This reduces the overall amount owed.

Any additional lump sums is inherently a very straightfor- are immediately credited, reducing the outstanding monthly interest paid. Virgin expects its customers to have paid off the outstanding loan before they re-

tire. The loan is secured on the ments account-holders will revalue of the house until it is.

The rate of interest payable on the outstanding debt is tiered, rising from 8.2 per cent for a loan worth 75 per cent of the property's value (LTV), to 8.9 per it reduces, borrowersask to be moved to a smaller LTV rate, re-Otherwise, Virgin continues to assume that the potential line of debt is up to that proportion of

the home's value and charges a higher rate of interest. The company says the aim of the account is to give its holders control over their money. In and pensions investors. addition to full monthly state-

ceive a more detailed statement once a year, setting out whether they are on target to repay

their loan. Should account-holders move into credit, they will recent for a 95 per cent LTV. As ceive 5 per cent gross on any sums they save in One. The company admits this rate is ducing the interest they pay. not high, but claims that by the time borrowers are in the position of being in the black (its minimum borrowing timetable is five years) more competitive

rates may be available. Initially One will be restricted to Virgin's 200,000 PEP

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Check the pedigree

Funds will spread your risk but capital growth is not an overnight process, which is why novice investors are usually steered to welldiversified generalist trusts.

Amanda Davidson, a partner with independent financial advisers Holden Meehan, recommends newcomers split their cash, putting half in a broadly-spread UK fund and the rest in an international trust. With this core holding in place, investors can then consider more volatile but potentially more rewarding areas of the market such as smaller companies and emerging markets.

The pedigree of the company managing the fund is crucial. "Check out others in the manager's range to see that they are performing well," Ms Davidson says. "Fund managers can rurely sustain great performance across all their funds but I like to reassure myself that they haven't got just one star performer."

Investment companies tend to have expertise in a particular area of the market and financial advisers may turn to a range of different companies. For example, among European funds. Ms Davidson likes Gartmore, Invesco and Fidelity, In Asia, we like GT and Schroders. The latter is also good in emerging markets, as are Mercury and Templeton." she says. Fidelity is singled out for its sound performance in most markets: "Fidelity is very good across the board and the size of its operation is very reassuring,"

Tracker funds replicating the FTSE 100 index of leading UK shares have dominated the top of the performance tables. Marks & Spencer's 100 Companies tracker fund has made a return of more than 25 per cent over the past year.

But Ms Davidson warns: "Shares in the top five companies in the FTSE 100 went up 50 per cent in value over the past year and that growth is not sustainable."

Information is available from the Association of Investment Trust Companies (0171-431 5222) and the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (0181-207 1361). - Juliet Oxborrow

Juliet Oxborrow is editor of Personal Finance magazine

9.1%

GROSS

INCOME

THE VALUE OF PORTFOLIOS

If they're good enough for the professionals...

Equity investment has proved one of the best means of accumulating capital over the long term. Yet few of us have the time or ability to play the stock market game. But, as Tony Lyons explains, investors can take stakes in broadly based portfolios run by professional fund

Like any form of speculation, there are high risks attached to buying and selling shares. Ann McMeehan, communications director of the Association of Unit Trust and Investment Funds (Autif), says: "Unit and investment trusts will give you a stake in a fully diversified portfolio rather than just taking a punt. Even institutional investors recognise the need to invest in these funds, especially when it comes to putting money overseas in emerging markets. If it is good enough for the professional investor, it's good enough for the ordinary saver."

Investors can choose from nearly 1,700 unit trusts ranging from broadly based general funds offering capital growth, income or a combination of both to the very specialised. The past couple of years has also seen a boom in the popularity of tracker funds that mirror the performance of the FTSE 100 or FTSE All Share indices, the two most widely used stock market indicators.

Unit trusts are open-ended funds. This means there are no limits on the number of units that can be issued. Most general funds carry an initial charge of between 3 and 5 per cent and an annual management charge of under 1 per cent, but specialist funds are likely to have higher charges.



Investment trusts, while fewer in number, have been around longer than unit trusts. They differ from unit trusts in a number of ways, the most important of which is that they are quoted on the stock market and are close-ended.

You have to buy them directly from the management or through a stockbroker and being close-ended means they have a set number of shares in issue. The price you

pay for them is determined by supply and demand in the stock market. If an investment trust is out of favour, its share price can be well below its net asset value, what each unit of the fund is worth. This is known

With a unit trust, for every pound you invest, you get a £1 share in the underlying assets. Investment trusts are currently trading at a near 14 per cent discount. This means

that for every £1 you invest, your share of the underlying assets is worth over 116p. Charges are much lower with investment trusts. The only initial charge is 0.5 per cent

stamp duty while annual charges are often less than 0.25 per cent. "Both types of funds offer diversity, lower

risks and investment management expertise," says Michael Ashbridge, investment director of Save & Prosper. "The main difference

Aiming to spread the risk: Investing in specialist funds, such as technology, is less risky if you buy into a portfolio run by a professional fund manager

Photograph: Reuters

between them is that with unit trusts you need not fear the price will go to a discount." Finding the fund that will suit you de-

pends on what your investment aims are and the type of risks you are prepared to take. Yesterday's fashionable investment has often proved to be today's disaster. In the early 1980s, most investment managers thought the wonders of the growth in the Japanese economy would go on forever. They have been proved wrong.

What to look for in a fund:

Reputation of the management group. ☐ Investment aim - long-term growth, rising income or combination of both. Past performance - not just over the long

leware of

10 much

term, but also annual performance. ☐ It should be consistently in the top quartile of its sector. ☐ Performance depends on an individual

fund manager who could move. Perhaps you would prefer a fund run by a team.

Volatility – does its price go up and down

more than its rivals? Risk - don't invest in emerging markets unless you want long-term growth.

☐ Charges – don't pay too much. Can it be put into a PEP?

If you are still bewildered, ask an independent financial adviser (IFA) for help. Call 0117 971 1177.

Bottom-up approach is finally starting to reap dividends

dex this year has not been good news for everybody involved in the investment industry. Funds which track the index or put their money in large, blue-chip companies have enjoyed excellent returns, but others have not been so successful. In particular, managers who follow the so-called value investment strategy have been left standing.

Active fund managers are traditionally placed in two camps. A value investment manager tends to use complex financial calculations about price, dividends and earnings to find companies which he believes are un-

The extraordinary rise in the FTSE 100 in- dervalued and show the most potential. This means that he will tend to go for small and medium-sized companies in the hope that they will outperform. This is sometimes known as "bottom-up" investing.

A growth manager is more likely to invest in blue-chip companies and other sectors which are expected to perform well. Growth managers are more likely to take a "top-down" approach, looking at overall market considerations such as economic and political factors before choosing any stocks.

This year value managers have seen stock market growth mainly concentrated in a small opment at M&G, is adamant that the value

number of very large banks and pharmaceutical companies. Small and medium-sized companies, in comparison, have been largely bypassed. This divergence in has left funds specialising in value investments with some pretty puny performances.

But for the first time in ages there are signs the market could be changing. The past few months have seen an improvement in the performance of many small and medium-sized risk too much of their capital. businesses. This has begun to boost the growth of value funds.

Bill Vasilieff, head of product and devel-types of investment."

strategy as a concept is not dead, saying: "Fashions change and the trick is to be ahead of the game, not following it. Cheaper, less fashionable stocks are already showing significant better performance over the past few months."

Doug Brodie, an independent adviser at Master Adviser, adds: "Value investment is 🖤! how you would handle the portfolio of a widow or orphan, or someone who cannot afford to

"If there is a big fall in the market, value investors will show a lower loss than other

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TIGH TAX-FREE Slowly but surely is the best way to feed an investment in equities

Many people assume that moving into equities must involve large lump-sum payments. But, explains Simon Read, most fund management companies are happy to accept regular premiums.

Making regular investments into a unit trust or investment trust can be a relatively painless way to build up a useful fund. Since investment trust savings schemes were introduced in 1985, some £1.5bn has been invested through them.

They have proved popular because investing £50 a month is a way for those who have no lump sum to get exposure to managed funds. With historic data showing that the stock market generally outperforms building society returns, such an investment can be useful for building up a nest-egg.

On another level, regular investment into a managed fund can be a good investment strategy. Why? Because drip-feeding your cash into an investment will help iron out any rises and falls in its value. which always happens with any stock market shares. It will also avoid the problem of investing when a fund is at a high level. Effectively, regular saving is a safer way of investing.

The process is called pound cost averaging and it relies on the principle that investment trust shares, and the price of units in a unit trust, can fall as well as rise. For example, someone buying £10 worth of unit trusts a month could afford 20 units if the price was 50p. If the price dropped to 25p in the second month, then the investor would get 40 units. A further price fall to 10p in the third month would give the investor 100 units, and then a price rise to 25p in the fourth month would not another 40 units.

The average price of the units at the end of that fourmonth period would be 27.5p.



Painless way to save: Investing, say, £50 a month will grow into a tidy sum over time

but the average cost to the investor would be just 20p per unit. Such swings in price are fairly unlikely, but it neatly demonstrates the advantages of making regular investments.

The fund management industry is keen to encourage regular investment schemes, not least because it means they can attract small investors who may not have otherwise considered equity investment.

Jim Hunter of the Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC), says savings schemes have a number of other advantages. "They're extremely flexible," he says, "You can invest monthly sums but also lump sums when you wish. You can also increase or decrease regular payments and even stop investing and start again at a later date." The AITC also points to

low minimum contributions. from £25 per month, or £250 for a lump sum to top up a scheme, and low costs, because savings scheme managers can negotiate bulk-buy rates with stockbrokers. Emma Weiss of the Associ-

ation of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif), also points to the investment opnortunities offered by regular savings into a unit trust. "It's the easiest way to invest in the stock market, especially if you're new to the equities game," she says, "It's convenient and cost-effective and leaves the investment decisions to the professionals.

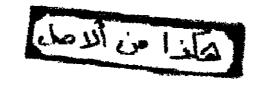
"You can even set up a ditrust. By doing so, regular sav-

ing can become a painless way of investing. In fact you won even notice the money leaving your account, but it will, over time, grow into a tidy sum."

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Contact Autif (0171-831 089) for information about investin in unit trusts and AITC (017) rect debit to invest into a unit 588 5347) for information about investment trust companies.





Broaden your horizons and your portfolio

Investing in international markets can make good financial sense, providing you have your UK investments in place. The main advantage is diversification, as investing overseas spreads your risks, writes Abigail Montrose.

Only some 9 per cent of companies in the world, by market value, are quoted on the London Stock Exchange. If you want to invest in companies such as Coca-Cola and Microsoft, which are quoted in the US, you will have to buy units in a fund investing in Wall Street.

Similarly, investors may find if they want to invest in a particular industry sector, they will have to invest overseas, says Ken Nicholson, marketing manager Europe at Templeton Investment Manage-

ment: "If you want to invest in technology, forest products, pharmaceuticals or car manufacturing, you will need to invest overseas to get proper exposure to these sectors." Investing in overseas stocks is

best done though an investment fund. It is a lot cheaper than buying shares in foreign markets and less risky. There is no problem in speaking to a fund manager, who will watch all the factors that affeet markets, such as currency and interest rate movements, something very difficult for a direct investor to do.

International investment also offers the chance to invest in economies growing faster than the UK. As well as the developed stock markets of the US and Europe, there is the chance to invest in developing countries in Asia. Latin America and Eastern Europe.

The easiest and cheapest way to invest in international markets is through a general international

ographical area, so if one market falls, the effect on your investment will be limited.

While it may not do as well as the top-performing regional funds, neither is there any danger of your money being invested in a single market that suddenly drops, as has happened recently in some of the South-east Asian tiger economies,

Investing internationally is not always a guarantee of making money. Japanese markets fell 32 per cent in the three years to October. But over the same period, the average North American specialist fund has grown 79 per cent, the UK equity growth sector is up 61 per cent and general European funds have risen 64 per cent.

When choosing a fund, Lee Gardhouse, investment manager at Hargreaves Lansdown, recommends using a large fund management house with good resources: "Managers with expertise in many

fund which invests over a wide ge- geographical regions include Foreign & Colonial, Martin Currie and Mercury Asset Management."

Martha Catterall, senior planner at City Independent Financial Planning, agrees. She favours Perpetual International Growth, Perpetual Worldwide Recovery, Britannia International Special Situations, Prolific Technology and Fidelity Managed.

Investors looking for potentially higher rewards may want to look at regional specialists. If you pick the right region, you could do better than investing in a general international fund. But as Ms Catterall points out: "Diversity helps to avoid the impact of a particular region suffering either a short-term or long-term downturn."

Even more specialist still are emerging market and single-country funds. These are at the top end of the risk spectrum and investors can just as easily see their investment halved overnight as doubled.

Beware of taking too much

Income funds remain popular but they are vulnerable to excessive demands, says Simon Read.

Expecting to make regular withdrawals from a fund to provide the income you require can make huge demands on your investment, especially in the carly months

Many investors have come a ropper when anticipated ority for older investors may be growth in a fund has not met expectations, while income has continued to be drawn. The re- a secondary consideration." sult is that the income payments eat into the investment to such a degree that capital shrinks as the fund struggles to maintain

out that the best performance fund. "Recently, UK growth funds have generally outpaced Wilson Financial Services, a member of the Financial Options Group.

t way to

ies

"Income funds have a specific risk in that the fund deducts its annual charges from capital. This means the income is higher than would have otherwise been the case, but growth in capital is constrained."

Despite the drawbacks, income funds remain popular. But investors face dilemmas, says Graham Bates, an independent financial adviser with Leeds-based Bates and Partners. "The age of the investor is important," says Mr Bates. "Someone looking to generate an investment income in early retirement, say mid-50s, will need to ensure that growth potential also exists. But the prigetting the maximum immediate income, with growth being

In order to achieve income growth, investors will need to have some capital appreciation in their fund. Mr Bates says: "The key is to look at the sec-Indeed, many experts point tor most likely to meet your investment objectives. Funds in is seldom found in an income the UK Equity Income sector will give you a low starting yield but the best prospect of UK income funds on the basis long-term capital growth. Funds of overall return," says Geoff in the UK Equity and Bond sec-Rollin, director at Devonshire tor offer a slightly lower risk and a higher initial yield, but less potential for growth. Those needing the highest level of income should look at the UK Fixed Interest sector."

It is also important to bear in mind the level of charges on all funds as they will further reduce the potential for capital

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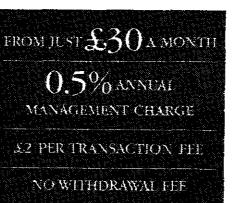
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Savings accounts that last from cradle to the grave

Changes are afoot in the investment world. The Government plans to introduce Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs) in 1999. Notice of this was given by Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his Budget in July.

Nothing is known about the likely shape of ISAs, apart from the fact that ministers are on record as saying they will include the best features of PEPs and Tessas.

The Inland Revenue is drawing up proposals on what to include in the new savings scheme. These are expected to be announced before the end of the year.

Ann McMeehan of the Association of Unit Trust and Investment Fund Companies (Autif), the industry trade body, says: "The ideal package will be a flexible vehicle for medium and longterm savings with low charges. It should provide for investment, including equities, and should be a part of sensible pension provision."

The investment industry would like PEPs and Tessas to be transferred into the new ISAs. "We are waiting with bated breath for the details," says Michael Ashbridge, investment director of Save & Prosper. Tony Wood of Virgin Direct adds: "From savings to PEPs and pensions to ISAs should be a smooth transition."

Then there are Oeics, or Open Ended Investment Companies. These were introduced just before the general election to bring the fund investment industry into line with the rest of Europe.

So far just a handful have been launched, the latest being the New Europe Fund from Save & Prosper. This will invest in the new markets in Eastern Europe. Oeics offer a simplified

means of investing in a portfolio of shares, taking some of the best features of unit and investment trusts. The big difference is that they have just one price, which is the same whether buying or selling. The Ocic will be run as a company with a board of directors and can be quoted on the Stock Exchange. Having invested in the

Oeic, there will be a number of sub-funds on offer. These can range from tracker funds to cash funds, from growth or income funds to the more specialist sectors including emerging markets. "The umbrella fund will be able to offer cradle to the grave type funds," says Ms McMeehan. "They will be all-embracing from the lowest to the highest risks. The investor can choose his or her own portfolio of sub-funds which can be rearranged to meet their lifestyle requirements."

- Tony Lyons

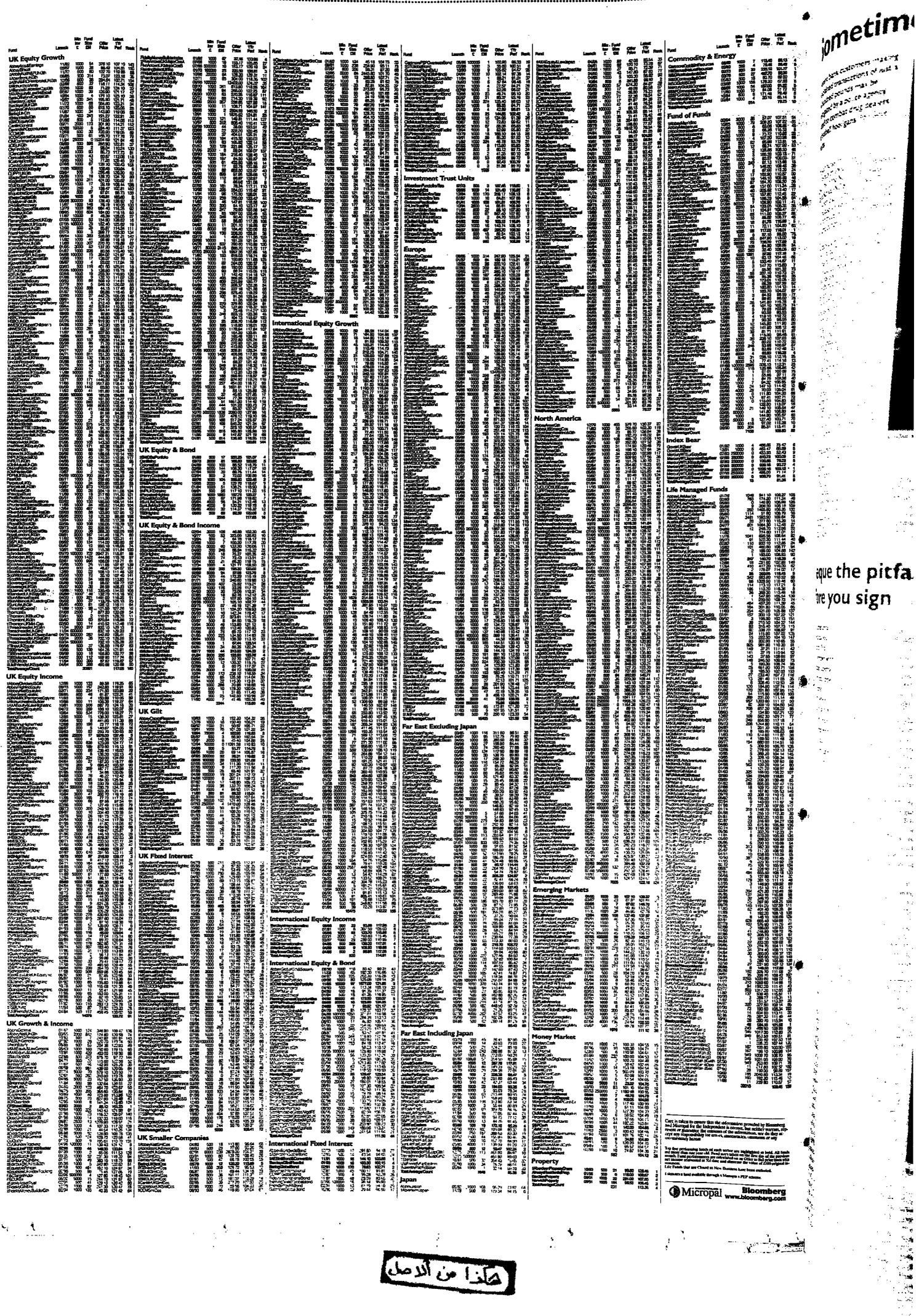
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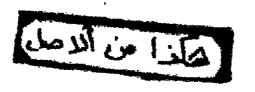


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Innocent bank customers making unexplained transactions of just a few hundred pounds may be investigated by a police agency created to combat drug dealers and football hooligans. Paul Slade

Every year banks and other financial institutions report about 16,000 suspicious cansactions to the National Criminal In-Elligence Service (NCIS), unly about 20 per cent of which lead to any active investigation. In the case of your bank account, "suspicious" can mean anything that does not fit the normal pattern of trading in your ac-

Customers are not told of the reports, can not rely on the Data Protection Act to uncover this information, and may be left with an unjustified black mark on their branch records indefinitely.

John Wadham, director of Liberty (formerly the National Council for Civil Liberties), says: "This virtually automatic process means individuals are branded as being suspicious without being told what is happening to them and without any process for clearing their name.

"There is a fundamental right of privacy in relation to one's bank account, and that shouldn't be violated unless there is real suspicion that someone is transferring remey around that is the proceeds of

The banks have a legal duty to report any transactions they consider suspicious, neglect of which is punishable by a prison term of up to five years and unlimited fines. Because the disclosure is demanded by law, the process is exempt from the Data Protection Act.

David Smith, deputy data protection registrar, says: "We have some concerns whether banks may err on the side of caution and report things that are not really suspicious. This has clear implications for customer confidentiality."

Even if you ask your bank whether it has any note of suspicious transactions on your account, staff cannot tell you, as this is seen as tipping off potential criminals. The NCIS is subject to the Data Pro-



Under suspicion: Bank customers who make unexplained transactions, even of just a few hundred pounds, may be reported to the police

tection Act, but can refuse any request if it believes giving you the information would hinder its investigations.

Reports of suspect transactions usually start at branch level, perhaps with the teller who served you, and are passed up the hierarchy for further consideration.

If head office staff can find no reasonable explanation for the transaction, it goes to the NCIS. Although reliable figures are hard to come by, the banks are thought to pass on about one in four of the references which reach head office level.

One money laundering expert with a ma-

"Believe it or not, we have had Lottery winners reported to us, quite often because the everything on to get it off their desks." branches don't always do their background

some good branches which will make don't report needlessly to the authorities."

jor bank, who asked not to be named, said: some further enquiries before referring things on, and others which will pass

These cases were caught before reaching NCIS, he adds. "I like to think that we're "It's like anything else - there are reasonably diligent in our approach and

The banks themselves will not say what criteria each uses in deciding what makes for a suspicious transaction.

Nor will they give any figures for how many NCIS references each bank makes each year.

Sue Thornhill, of the British Bankers' Association, says: "There have been a number of reports that have gone forward right through to NCIS that have been for a couple of hundred pounds and have triggered a valid investigation.

"If someone, for example, is unemployed and they start banking a couple of hundred pounds a week that can easily be suspicious and could trigger a report."

In other cases, a report may be thought necessary because a small business customer is suddenly banking much higher takings than the bank is accustomed to with no ready explanation.

The same regulations govern money deposited in a PEP, unit trust or other investment plans.

In theory, the NCIS is supposed to give the banks regular feedback on cases referred to it so the banks can purge their records of any unjustified black marks.

In practice, this feedback either takes many months to arrive, or fails to differentiate between cases which are actively being investigated and those which have yet to be looked at.

Ms Thomhill says: "We have fought and fought for proper feedback.

"It is wholly unsatisfactory that the banks should be breaching customer confidentiality in this way under the compulsion of the law but not able to lift that black mark from the customer's file.

"It's putting genuine customers at risk of investigation and nobody wants that." Mr Wadham agrees. "It's a Draconian system," he says. "The banks are in im-

possible position." He wants to see a system which forces the banks to go to an independent arbiter, such as a judge or an ombudsman, who would decide, case by case, whether NCIS

notification was needed. "Rather than it being a semi-automatic process, there would then be some kind of objective assessment of the level of suspicion, and someone independent analysing

Cheque the pitfalls before you sign

You can budget until your friends call you names but still find yourself overdrawn with an unexpected expense such a burst water pipe ceiling. This is where credit cards, for all their faults, come into their own - except that most plumbers don't take them. Don't worry, says Rachel Fixsen, relief is in

waiting until you can afford a plumber and let the ceiling ome down or pay an emerency plumber on credit.

A host of credit cards now offer cheques as well. These allow you to write cheques drawn on your credit card account in the same way as on a current account. Because you can use the cheques for many purposes where you cannot pay with the credit card, it makes your credit line more versatile.

People's Bank introduced a cheque option on its credit card earlier this year. Royal Bank of Scotland, Barclays, Beneficial Bank, Save & Prosper/Fleming and MBNA also fer the facility. In some cases, the interest

rate charged on these credit cards can be lower than on other forms of borrowing, so using the cheques to pay off other debts makes even more sense.

own restaurant in Welford, near Leicester, has a People's Bank credit card and says he finds the cheque facility handy. "It's useful to clear any other debts or overdrafts. It controls it all in one swoop and it's a good rate of interest." he says.

When you write a cheque on full every month." a credit card account, this is usually treated as a cash withdrawal rather than a purchase. People's Bank charges 18.9 per cent APR on cash advances not exactly a bargain but still lower than most credit cards and store cards.

The Co-op Bank has an offer on its Visa cheques scheme. Apart from the books of five cheques which are usually available, it is sending a one-off theque to customers, which

carries an interest rate of just 7.9 per cent APR until 31 March 1998.

If you used this to pay off an expensive persistent overdraft. you could more than halve your interest payments for six months. Most authorised overdrafts at high street banks cost around 18 per cent APR.

Unauthorised overdrafts can he painfully expensive. Nat West charges an annual 33.8 per cent interest, according to financial information provider Moneyfacts, while interest rates on store cards can be high, with Laura Ashley charging a whopping 30.9 per cent. MBNA issues Mastercards

The choice today is no longer and Visa cards with cheques. and this can allow you cheap borrowing - at least for a while. MBNA's standard APR on cash withdrawals is 20.8 per cent, but if you're new to the card, you pay 11.6 per cent for the first six

MBNA, whose cards are available through other issuers. says introductory rates vary according to the offer on at the time and the issuer. For credit card users, the

cheques can be useful for times when credit cards are not accepted, for instance when shopping in Marks & Spencer and John Lewis. "Paying your painter and decorator is a classic example," says Co-op Bank's Dave Smith. However only a few of the cards act as guarantee cards for the cheques.

Save & Prosper/Fleming markets one credit card, a baserate card charging 12.7 per cent APR for purchases and Andy Mathias, who runs his 14.4 per cent APR using the chequebook.

The Consumers' Association admits the cheques can be useful. "But the bad thing about them is they're treated as cash advances," says Malcolm Coles, "So you pay interest on them even if you pay your bill off in

Some issuers, such as Barclays, charge interest on cash advances from the statement date, but some, including MBNA and People's Bank, charge from credit card providers which a low promotional rate which the date of withdrawal or the date the withdrawal is charged to your account.

Analysis by People's Bank suggests most people use credit card cheques to pay off more expensive borrowing. The bank says 31 per cent of customers your credit card might backlire make the cheques out to other if you are taking advantage of



Emergency: reach for a cheque Photograph: David Crickshanks

charge higher rates. A further 28 per cent of cheques are made out to other banks and building societies. Just one-tenth of cheques are written out to other individuals and organisations.

But stop-gap borrowing on

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Hold on, these could be famous

We decorate here, we decorate there. Yet there is one spot in our homes that frequently escapes our attention. Rosalind Russell grasps the issue – the doorknob.

When fashion designers hit on the idea of selling brand-name perfume to people who couldn't afford one of their frocks, they struck gold. For every sale of an £800 jacket, there are thousands more of a £25 bottle of scent carrying the same label. It has taken other designers a surprisingly long time, but they are catching up. Now, if you cannot afford to employ Norman Foster (designer of The Armadillo in Glasgow and the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank) as your architect, at least you can namedrop by buying a set of his door

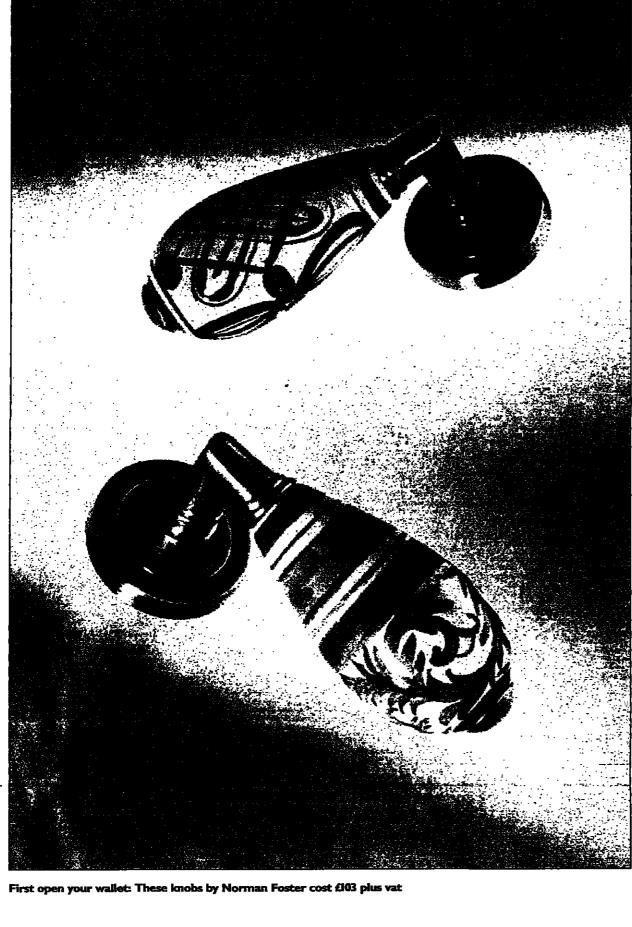
They have become one of the most popular lines sold by Franchi International, better known as a locksmiths and now recently expanded into the designer door-furniture market. Marco Franchi, son of the owner, took a showroom in Chelsea Harbour's prestigious Design Centre 12 months ago. Among the cognoscenti, a pair of Norman Fosters could be as familiar as a pair of Doc Martens. They are a must-buy among interior designers and magazine style editors, who come down to coo over the latest in home decor. The range includes leather and rubber handles and - at around £140 a pair - is not the kind of fixture you will want to leave behind when you

There are cheaper ways to stamp your own personality on a property that comes with standard brass or nickel door fittings. Franchi sells knobs covered in hand-painted blue Italian glass at £8.46, ideal for giving a quick facelift to a boring run of kitchen cupboards. Crofts and Assinder in Birmingham has just launched a Tuscany range of kitchen cupboard drop cast-iron style handles, but its most popular style recently is the chrome-plated spring handle (£5.37), similar to the ones fitted to Aga cooker lids. That way you can assume out having to find £3000-plus for the cooker.

Haute Deco's French-designed resin handles and knobs come in almost any colour your can think of. They are shaped like crocodiles, ladybirds, fish, ducks and bears - from £13, all good for children's rooms - and more sophisticated pebbles, escargots, roses, stars and a striking frosted flame at £49. The new collection, available by mail order, or from the King's Road showroom, is geometric and minimalist.

Designing door handles was not the career path Steve his farmhouse, he has now Roberts had in mind when he started out as a sculptor.

"I was having a house in London gutted and re- ly from his natural surroundings velope while sitting on a train turn out machine-made ones 325325.



designed," he says. "It had hor- on the north Devon coast. rible old Bakelite door handles them with. I sculpted some and friends commissioned me to

make more." A move from Shepherd's Bush to Devon nudged forward came Turnstyle Designs, based near Barnstaple. First working out of a converted barn beside moved the business into what was a village shop. Inspiration for the designs have come large-

"Spending every weekend on but there was nothing interest- the beach makes you realise that ing on the market to replace everything that comes out of the ocean has to be streamlined. had them cast and then some And primarily, a door handle has to be comfortable to hold." That has resulted in handles, hooks, cord pulls and shelving brackets shaped into fish, pelthe idea which eventually be- icans, ammonites, spiral shells and frogs. Composite marble, pewter, maple wood and bronze are among materials used. Handles start at about £40 a pair,

knobs £6 and a cord pull £8. "Most of the my designs are drawn on the back of an en-

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up to Paddington," Roberts cheaper. "There are about six

Among his favourites are one which looks like a hand imprint in the sand (his young son's impression) and - the only non original design - a hand clutching a bar; a version of a Victorian safe handle. Attention to detail, like the tiny shell-shaped escutcheon dangling beneath a fish, or a feather beneath a pelican, makes them stand out cork. from the crowd.

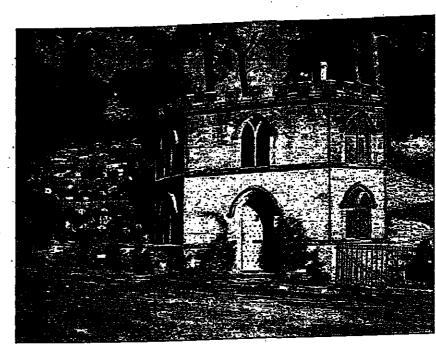
The problem with quirky, hand cast and original designs is that they tend to get copied by industry big boys who can

of my designs currently making a lot of money for someone else," says Roberts, a member of Anti Copying In Design. "The trouble is it's difficult to copyright a design like a dolphin, or an ammonite."

One of his latest ideas should add fizz to the esoteric world of designer door handles: it is shaped like a champagne

Franchi International 0171 351 4554; Crofts & Assinder 0121 622 1074; Haute Deco 0171 736 7171; Turnstyle Designs 01271

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The former gate-house to Dillington House in Ilminster, Somerset, is Grade II* listed and looks like a miniature castle, built of hamstone, with arched stone mullion windows and turreted roof. With two bedrooms (one just 9ft by 6ft 7ins), open fireplace in the sitting room and outside, landscaped gardens, fish pond and parking space. Price £53,500. (Greenslade Taylor Hunt, 01460 57222.)



Medley Cottage in Rayne, near Braintree, Essex, is a Grade II-listed cottage with timber frame and pitched roof. The two bedroom property has exposed beams, . open fireplace in the sitting room and gardens. It has been dated as 17th century, but local experts think it may be older. Offers invited around £75,000. (Trembach Welch, 01371 872117.)



An 18th century cottage 45 minutes from the beach in Brittany comes with two period barns and more than three acres. The four-bedroom, two-bathroom house is about an hour and a half from the ferry at St Malo. The owners, from Sussex, chose their holiday home to give their children the chance to enjoy wildlife, sailing, swimming and water-skiing. Around £47,000. (Domus Abroad, 0171 431 4692.)

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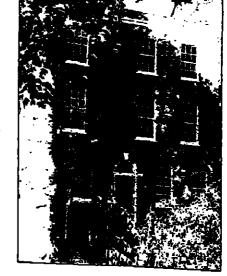
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11/PROPERTY

MORTGAGES

Better ways home if you have no boss

While lenders are falling over themselves to help most home-buyers, things are not quite as inviting for the self-employed. But all is not lost for them, as Rachel Fixsen reports.

While many employees with a solid employment history can satisfy lenders that they present a reasonable risk by producing three months' worth of pay slips, people working for themselves are normally asked to provide three years' audited

It is not only the self-employed who have problems getting a mortgage. Anyone who works on a fixed-term contract of through an agency might hit

Earlier this year Theo Nicholaou, a doctor at a London hospital, had an offer accepted on a flat and successfully applied for a £110,000 mortgage from the Woolwich. But he was subsequently gazumped. By the time he found another flat and reapplied for the mortgage, he had switched from working for the NHS to being bank demanded a lot of paemployed through two medical

staff agencies. Even though his income had

derwriter of the mortgage in-demnity guarantee (MIG) would not take on the risk. Most lenders advancing more than 75 percent of a property's value require a MIG - insurance which pays out if you default.

"I ended up going back to my bank, Nat West, even though there were lots of cheaper options," he says,

Getting a mortgage from your bank is often the best option if you have a non-mainstream employment status, says Liz Neild, of Barclays Mortgages. "It means it's going to be a lot more straightforward," she says. "They've got a lot of information in their data systems about that person."

The mortgage advisers John Charcol often advise self-employed people to turn to their own bank. "Even if their bank hasn't got the best deals, they're in a position to take a longer term view," says Ray Bolger, consultant at John Charcol.

When Paul Nixon, a computer consultant in Birmingham, was in the process of buying a new home last year, he turned to Abbey National, with which he had had a mortgage for five years. Because he had become self-employed, the

"I'd never really been questioned like that before, and I increased through the change in wasn't exactly thrilled," he says. employment status, his mort- He then turned to Barclays gane application was turned where he had banked for years,



Through the maze: builders, like others who are self-employed, need bigger deposits

95 per cent of the property's value without having to produce all the accounts required by Abbey

The self-employed seeking a mortgage usually have two options. Either they go for a "status loan", which could be for up to 100 per cent loan to value, and give two to three years' audited accounts or tax state-

Or they put up a large deposit, and borrow 75 per cent or less loan to value. In that of .vn. This was because the un- and was granted a mortgage of case, they can take the self-cer-

tification route, which means they do not have to give proof of income. The usual credit checks are carried out. They may include a current or previous lender's reference and a bank reference.

Many self-employed people simply do not have three years' audited accounts. Paying an accountant to prepare the books may seem an unjustifiable expense. Or the business may not have been around that long. Even where accounts have

been audited, they often provide

level of mortgage the would-be borrower can afford. Many expenses can be written off against tax, effectively shrinking the business's profits and therefore the amount a lender will grant. However some of those costs would be there anyway, such as the use of space in the home to run the business.

So if you work for yourself, ter of the property price page 4.

yourself. This cuts out the need for a MIG. And regardless of whether the lender believes vou will be able to repay the loan, it has the reassurance that it would - unless house prices fall by more than 25 per cent - be able to get its money back by selling the house.

But the key is choosing the right lender, Bolger says. UCB Homeloans, Nationwide Building Society's subsidiary; The Mortgage Business and Bank of Scotland are three lenders which specialise in self-certification mortgages. Some lend as much as 85 per cent of property value without demanding proof of income.

Getting a mortgage through a mortgage broker, rather than shopping around yourself, is often a good idea. "For someone who is a non-standard case. someone who knows the market could be a big asset to

them," Bolger says.

Jobs are not for life these days, it is often said. And in many professions, it is becoming the norm to be self-employed to some extent. Teachers and people in information technology often work on a contract basis. Is such a person really much more of a risk for a mortgage lender than an employee?

"Employed people are a better risk, but it would also be fair to say some lenders do take the caution too far," Bolger says.

Bank of Scotland, 0645 812812; UCB Home Loans, 0645 501 500: The Mortgage Business, 0345 253253; John Charcol, 0171 611 7000; Barclays Mortgages, contact your local branch.

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Curing crack disease is very expensive

JACKSON

Everyone in an old house can find the odd crack. Just fill it in, paint it over and the problem disappears. Or so I thought until we discovered our house was suffering from the dreaded RSS word.

Like a nasty disease that had been kept it check, it suddenly burst though the lashings of filler and spread its tentacles across the ceiling and walls. The structural engineer nodded like a doctor satisfied that his patient was showing all the correct symptoms. Fullblown subsidence and the only cure is underpinning.

As the insurance company gears up for action it brought home to us the dangers of not getting a full structural survey. Black Horse Agencies, not for the first time, has warned of the risks. Some 80 per cent of buyers rely solely on a lender's valuation and nearly two in 10 of those buyers face unexpected repair bills. More than 40 per cent of those had costs of more than

£500 - the cost of a building survey. Simply replacing drains will run into the thousands. For those buying a property built after the turn of the century, the Homebuyers' survey (from £250) would be adequate.

In its third quarterly review for 1997, Hamptons In-

with a number of price reductions in some of the more expensive areas. Those who sold up in the frenetic early summer and moved out of town can feel pleased with themselves. Before sellers swing from euphoria to deep gloom, the review notes a levelling off, but definitely not a downturn. Good news for those outside the Southeast is that the ripple effect is finally being felt. The West Country has seen the high-

'It looks as though it was made entirely of whatever materials were at hand'

est increases recently, with Gloucestershire and Wiltshire in particular achieving up 5 per cent increases in the middle to upper section of

the market. The same agents have an extraordinary cottage for sale made entirely from boulders. The single-storey building in Alton, Hampshire, looks rather like the kind of place made overnight as a matter of survival from whatever materials are available. In fact the stones are believed to have been salvaged from a demolished priory in Selborne, and the cottage is Grade II listed. It was built in the late 19th centernational reports that it has tury close to the old Waterseen a marked slow-down of cress steam railway. The price increases in London asking price is £120,000.

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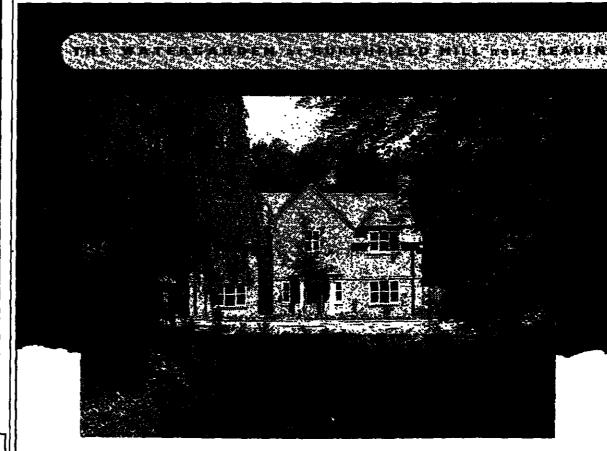
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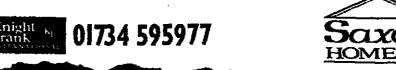
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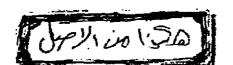
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More leap on to the off-road gravy train

Sales of sporty-looking off-road vehicles are booming worldwide. even though they're rarely used off-road. As Gavin Green reports, a brand new Land Rover and Mercedes-Benz's first-ever lifestyle 4x4 are set to further stoke demand.

People rarely buy cars for logical, sensible reasons. To prove it, the fastest growing market sector worldwide is for luxury or sporty 4x4s. Quite why millions of buyers are attracted to vehicles that are virtually motoring oxymorons - sports/luxury cars and off-roaders are, after all, motoring opposites - is a subject which still perplexes the world's car makers. These "cars" tend to be thirsty, roll excessively on corners and are slower and less comfortable than comparably priced saloons. Yet punters love them.

The sales of Sports Utility Vehicles, as the car industry describes them, have grown by 74 per cent in the US this year. Overall, SUV sales are likely to rise by a further 35 per cent by the year 2006, reckons Mercedes-Benz - which is the latest luxury maker to enter the market. Its new M-class is one of the stars of the current London Motor Show.

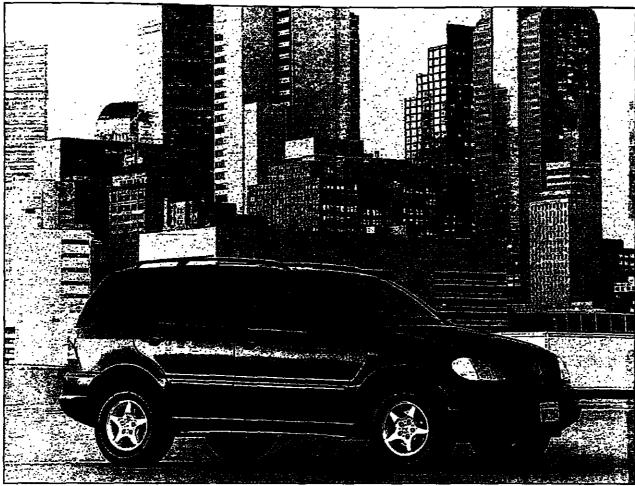
In the UK, the sector also boomed massively through the '90s - up from about 27,000 vehicles in 1990 to more than 80,000 in 1995. Sales dipped a trifle last year but are set to rise again next year due to the launch of two crucial new vehicles - the Mclass and, even more important for the UK, the new Land Rover Freelander.

Lexus - Toyota's luxury wing - jumps on the bandwagon next year. Porsche is rumoured to be entering. BMW will have a 4x4 model - as much station wagon as offroader - in a few years. Volvo has just launched an off-roading version of the V70 estate, and every major Japanese maker is now an established SUV player.

While the US is easily the biggest SUV market, others are also experiencing an SUV love affair. Worldwide sales of the Range Rover - the vehicle which invented the breed, back in 1970 - have boomed from 15,000 in 1992 to more than 30,000 last year despite much greater competition. World SUV sales will grow from 1.8 million in 1990 to 3.8 million this year. In Britain alone - a country ill suited to big, fuel consumptive vehicles - sales of the market-leading Land Rover Discovery rocketed from 6,600 in 1990 to 21,600 in 1995.

Ford is the world number one. Its Explorer is the world's best-selling SUV, almost wholly because of its strong US sales. Last year 402,000 Explorers left US Ford dealers and took to the freeways, leafy suburbs and drive-in hamburger joints of a vehicle that is as car-like as possible. middle-class America.

Some analysts say that the boom in large is as car-like as possible. There is nothing American SUV sales is an upshot of America's enduring love affair with the as posh as an LS400's. Yank Tank, which was rudely interrupted by higher fuel prices in the Seventies. But road, at least not in difficult conditions." now that gas is cheap again. Yanks are re- says Mercedes' Hubbert. "They're at-





Mercedes-Benz reckons that about half

rarely get its tyres muddy, Freelander. eft, is more toy than rural workhorse

turning to their tanks. Except that, instead tracted to the looks and feeling of securiof Cadillacs and Lincoln Town Cars, the ty that an SUV conveys. They also like the new-wave tanks are as high as they are long, high, commanding driving position. But they mostly want a vehicle that's as car-like, and masquerade as sports or fun vehicles. and normal to drive, as possible."

The smaller SUV sector, likely to boom of all luxury SUV buyers are newcomers to the 4x4 market. According to Mercedes in the UK following the Freelander's boss, Jurgen Hubbert - who has overseen launch, tends to attract a younger, sportier buyer than the M-class or Discovery. The the construction of Mercedes' new facto-Freelander will compete with Golf GTIs and ry in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, which makes the new M-class - buyers see SUVs as "an ex-MGFs, as much as conventional saloons. It will be sold on its sporty individuality, and pression of individuality, lifestyle and active enjoyment of life". Mercedes has tried on its action-man, outdoor mien. In truth, to reassure saloon car owners by serving up the only off-roading it's likely to do, at least in the south-east, is when it mounts kerbs for parking. And, to most Freelander buy-The new Lexus is the same; its offering ers, the great outdoors will be a nice little

Highlands glen. Never mind - image is all. "Buyers rarely use their SUVs off-The booming 4x4 sector is also testament to the growing diversity of the car market. We're seeing more coupés, more roadsters,

pavement caté in Clai

more baby cars, more MPVs - and more SUVs - as production costs shrink and people demand more individual cars. Increasingly, SUVs use donor parts from conventional car models, further reducing costs. The M-class, for instance, uses the V6 and V8 engines from the new-generation Mercedes saloons. The Lexus 4x4 uses much of the hardware of upper-end Toyota saloon models. New generation Range Rovers are likely to use BMW engines.

Jaguar seriously considered entering the top-end of the sector, with a rebodied and re-suspended version of the Ford Explorer. "We looked at it, because the market is booming," says Jaguar chief executive Nick Scheele. "And if the market wanted a Jaguar 4x4, it would have got one. But it didn't. Research showed that it was just too big a jump for us. We'll probably not enter the market, but I'd never say never."

Despite booming sales, there are one or two clouds on the off-roading horizon. The biggest threat is the possibility of higher fuel taxes. SUVs, especially the bigger ones, are invariably thirsty and are completely at odds with the growing greenness in car company philosophy and in government rhetoric. Plus, like most fashion accessories, posh SUVs will invariably fall from favour one day. But few people are predicting when.

Many makers find it hard to believe their times continue, and people keep on pretending that they really could use a "car" that can climb muddy banks, car makers will keep laughing all the way to the bank.



GAVIN GREEN

British minnows shine in the big pool

The big foreign car companies keep getting bigger, yet once every two years, at the Earl's Court Show. Britain's locally owned motor industry – full of tiny makers mostly building sports cars - emerges from its slumber and dazzles with its innovation, its boldness and, perhaps most impressively, its perseverance. We have lost Austin, Triumph, Riley. Lanchester and Morris for ever. Jaguar, Rover, Land Rover, Aston Martin and Lotus are now German, American or Malaysian owned. But we still have TVR, Marcos, Bentley. Rolls-Royce, AC, Caterham and Morgan. Earl's Court is where they strut their stuff - this year more convincingly than ever.

Bentley and Rolls-Royce together constitute Britain's biggest locally owned car maker: extraordinary, when their cheapest model, the Bentley Brooklands, is £106,866. Rolls and Bentley (two badges, one maker) sold almost 1,400 cars in the first nine months of 1997 - far less than the daily output of General Motors. But that's 9 per cent up on last year and cause enough to open the Bollinger.

The Bentley Continental T was Earl's Court's most extravagant and most expensive (£233,355) star.

Vickers, which owns Rolls and Bentley, hotly denies persistent rumours that it will sell them to either BMW or Mercedes, but sadly this move would surprise nobody. The minnows are likely to stay British - they are so small that no foreign giant would want them. Morgan, the best known, once famously rebuffed Sir John Harvey-Jones's advice on TV's Troubleshooter ("increase production and raise prices") and was vindicated by a subsequent world recession that affected it by not one jot, while the bigger, more expansionary companies bled.

It had a new range of cars at Earl's Court - "the biggest change since we introduced the cowled radiator in 1952", according to a dealer - but they look the same as ver, 1930s iestaments to fine old

trically heated windscreens and engine immobilisers, sops to new laws on safety and security, but their heart-and-soul is rooted in the past, not least in their hand assembly. Their style, their best asset, hasn't changed and probably never will.

While Morgan (annual production 500) may be the most traditional of Britain's small makers, TVR (annual production 1,800) is the most extreme, the raver compared with the tea-party vicar. Peter Wheeler, who bought the Blackpool company in 1981, is a bold man. If you don't believe me, visit his stand next to the main entrance. His Speed Twelve model looks like a road-going Batmobile, uses a 7.7litre V 12 engine producing 800bhp and costs £150,000. TVR says it is the fastest road car ever built. It joins his noisy, ill-tempered yet fast and eye-catching other models - the Chimaera, Cerbera and Griffith.

Caterham (annual production 750) makes modern versions of the bug-like but entertaining Lotus Seven. They have the creature comforts of a park bench, but go fast, handle brilliantly, and have an enthusiastic worldwide following. Nothing puts you closer to the

Marcos (annual production 150) is another long established sports car player whose cars haven't changed much. For Earl's Court, the front end was smoother, and there was a new 2.0 GTS model, at just over, £27,000.

Spectre (annual production 20, but set to double), a relative newcomer, impressed with the R45, with its beefed-up American V8 motor.

On the smallest stand of all stood little AC, Britain's oldest surviving car maker. Recently rescued by a team of British and American investors - but still proudly made and managed at a site near the old Brooklands racing circuit near Weybridge - AC (anticipated annual production, 150) showed a revised Ace sport car and a new version of its best-selling Cobra. They were in a bullish mood when I vis British design and wind-in-the-hair ited on day two. They'd just sold a fun, contemporaries of the Spitfire, new Cobra. At £70,000, that more not the 747. They have airbags, election than covered the cost of their stand.

MY WORST CAR/CHRIS LANG'S BEETLE

Thieves, traffic wardens and dead leaves found his bright red Volkswagen irresistible. In the end he sold it for £100. But where did he leave his shoes?

Even starting my Beetle was a dispiriting experience. After a downpour I'd find that the front footwells were full of water and I'd have to bail it out before I could drive anywhere. It was only when I got tired of this after a year that my brother pointed out that leaves were blocking some drain holes. After hoovering out the leaves I never got damp feet again.

When it moved, the Beetle was a great car. I suppose I chose it because it was low to the ground, it made a great noise and its chunky looks were a lot more hip than some anonymous hatchback.

But there were major drawbacks, like the fact that I had to park it on a hill to have a chance of restarting it. That caused friction with my then girlfriend. who became my wife. We'd go clubbing in Chelsea, not an area renowned for its

mountain ranges. So at 3 o'clock in the morning we ended up either walking a mile to the nearest parking incline. or furiously push-starting the thing.

utilitarian or grubby

Being red, it seemed to get a lot of unwelcome attention from traffic wardens and tow trucks. Once, I was so angry after collecting the car from the pound and paying another hefty fine that I took out my aggression on the stiff gear lever. I wrecked the gearbox and had to struggle home with just reverse and fourth gears.

Another time it refused to start, which was no surprise, but it took half an hour for me to realise that someone had actually stolen the battery. I bought a replacement and with the help of a supposedly mechanical friend still managed to connect up the wrong terminals, which caused a small fire and

much amusement to passers-by. Eventually I'd had enough and phoned a small ad in the local paper, the type where they buy anything on four wheels for eash. They offered £100 and



I jumped at it. As the car was towed away I realised I'd left a pair of golfing shoes worth about £75 in the back. That was the last I saw of the Beetle, or the shoes,

Chris Lang is appearing in 'A Dance to the Music of Time' on Channel 4, and is the writer and producer of 'First Impression'. 6.30pm. Thursday, Radio 4. He was speaking to James Ruppen.

Gallic bred, but short on spice

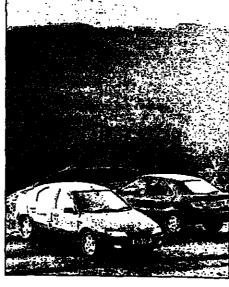
Citroëns are normally renowned for innovative design and technology. John Simister puts the new Xsara to the test.

You interact more with a car than you do with either a fridge or a cooker and operating it calls upon a wider repertoire of human skills. It is the most expensive consumer durable that most of us will ever buy. But it is still a manufactured good. For many car buyers, the story ends there. Why else would anyone buy a Daewoo, for example?

Into this marketing mindset is pitched Citroën's new Xsara. It looks presentable, its glovebox contains holders for cups and credit cards, red indicators below the rear side windows tell you if the child locks are activated, and the rear shelf can be stowed behind the rear seats' lockable backrests should you need to carry a high load.

This is all very good. The Xsara, a car of Ford Escort size which replaces the Citroen ZX, also has a particularly flat and comfortable ride, it steers eagerly into comers with minimum lurch and heave, and the 1.8-litre. 16-valve, SX-trim version I drove had a quiet engine which gave lively, hig-hearted acceleration and the potential for a top speed of 121mph. Other engines are 1.4 and 1.6-litre petrol units, and a pair of 1,9litre diesels, one of which is tur-

bocharged and very muscular. There are some less convenient aspects of the Xsara. however. The interior, whose design motif is curvy but not too aesthetically unsettling is the intelligent, innovation-reclaimed to be roomier than that of its ZX predecessor, but the ufacturers have such a history flat shape of the driver's seat of doing things differently.



cushion obliges you to push the seat a long way back so your thighs are properly supported. The steering wheel is adjustable for reach as well as rake, but it reduces foot and knee space for the passenger behind you. The rearward view past the thick rear pillars and through the narrow rear window is poor, too.

Otherwise, there is not much wrong with the Xsara. It's comfortable and it is quite fun to drive. (Did you know that, in the US, "fun to drive" is itself a commodity? "Our 1998 models include some extra fun-todrive," a marketing executive might say. But the Xsara is, of course, French.)

Yes, of course! French! And it's a Citroën! Just when you were thinking it sounded quite a reasonable prospect, here comes its secret weapon. Citmens are interesting, slightly off the mainstream but enticing to ceptive buyer. Few other manSometimes the results have failed to find a mass market, but the Xantia, for example, shows that eve-catching looks and technical eleverness need not

frighten people away.

It should do the exact opposite, actually. Most cars are pretty good these days, so you can take the functional stuff for granted unless you're a real car nut. What matters is the car's image, the kudos attached to its brand, the messages it sends. This is why Audis exist alongside VWs, for example, and it should be why Citroëns exist alongside Peugeots (both are produced by the same manufacturing group, and share many components).

Citroën's brand image has negative connotations, based mainly around technical complexity, but these are fading into distant memory. It also has positive connutations, and in a hrand-sensitive world this is to be exploited. Peugeots should he stylish, well-engineered but conventional, as they always have been, while Citroens should be individual, innovative, forward-looking.

Look at the Xsara again. Doesn't quite fit the brief, does it? Were it not for the doublechevron badge, this car could have been built by anyone. It is scarcely believable that Citroën has thrown away its most precious asset. The Xsara is an entirely decent car, but it's not really a Citroen. And that, to anyone who regards a car as more interesting than a fridge. must be a mistake. Even if, as in the 1.8 SX, air conditioning comes as standard.

Citroen Xsara 1.8 SX 16V Specifications

Price: £14.500, Engine: 1,761cc. four cylinders, 16 valves, 112bhp at 5.500rpm. Fivespeed gearbox, front-wheel drive. Performance: top speed 121mph, 0-60 in 9.7sec. Fuel consumption: 29-34mpg

Fiat Brava 1.8 ELX, £14,687: A fine example of how to make a car look individual without

alienating the buyer. Well equipped, lively, good value. Peugeot 306 !.8 GLX, £14,445: Mechanically similar to Xsara, much stronger marque identity. Feels cheap inside,

glitzy, but great to drive. Renault Mégane 2.0 RXE, £14,965: Bigger engine but no more power, loss of equipment and high comfort. Good car, deserves more modern engines.

'GLX' designation sounds

Volkswagen Golf 1.6 SE, £14,500 approx: To be launched here in November, fourth-generation Golf builds on strong identity, brings new levels of quality to a family hatch.

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